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31 January 1984

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ENERGY MINISTER SEEKS FUNDS FOR BNOC DEVELOPMENT

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 22 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

Energy Minister, Senator Clyde Griffith, said yesterday there was need for a whole analysis of the Barbados National Oil Company and the National Petroleum Corporation.

He said the BNOC could not function as a company with some \$1 500 in capital and \$42 million in capital works.

He told the Senate Chamber yesterday that he has been taking a look at the structure of the two companies.

Senator Griffith was moving a Resolution to approve the borrowing of US\$9.2 million from the Venezuela Investment Fund to assist in oil exploration.

The loan repayment starts in 1988 and ends in the year 2000.

He said the loan will go a long way towards continuing Government's efforts in containing self-sufficiency in the petroleum sector.

Senator Griffith said Government could not stop its effort to ensure that it reached a level of self-sufficiency.

"We cannot be too optimistic to believe that we should relax because there has been a softening in the world oil market," he said.

He told the Senate that Petro-Canada would be carrying out oil exploration in the Scotland District from May next year.

Senator Griffith said that royalty costs from oil exploration at Woodbourne accrued to some \$250 000 a month — 75 per cent of which went to Government.

Economist, Owen Arthur, another Government Senator, asked what was the scope of activity to be financed by the loan, what were the arrangements for the repayment of the loan and whether repayment would be from the Consolidated Fund or whether the Barbados National Oil Company will be making deposits for the repayment.

Senator Griffith said the money would be used to finance drilling activity at Woodbourne for two years, to instal a pipeline from Woodbourne to the Belle and to purchase new natural gas lines.

He said Government could not continue to "flare" natural gas at Woodbourne, and the only way was to extend natural gas to more consumers in 1984.

He said natural gas would be installed in St. Andrew and some parts of St. Philip.

DEALERS OPT TO BOYCOTT ALL PETROLEUM COMPANY FUNCTIONS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 25 Nov 83 p 41

[Text]

THE TRINIDAD and Tobago Petroleum Dealers Association has decided to boycott all meetings and functions of National Petroleum Company (NP) until the government increases the margin of profit on gasoline to dealers at a satisfactory level.

According to a letter sent to all dealers from the Association's general secretary Mohanlal Nanhoo it was pointed out that the Association would embark on a campaign of "non-cooperation against National Petroleum."

Said the letter, "further to our non-cooperation against National Petroleum on the occasion of the launching of Super Lube, the executive committee has taken a decision to extend this non-cooperation to all meetings and functions organised by National Petroleum for dealers until such time that our margin of

profit on gasoline is satisfactorily restored."

The letter added, "our last meeting with the management on June 23, 1983 resulted in a series of nothing. Promises made to dealers were never fulfilled by National Petroleum. The many meetings with NP's visiting improvement committee to stations proved to be an exercise in futility and waste of time."

The letter to dealers continued, "NP is saying on the one hand, that they cannot give or recommend a reasonable profit-margin for us, but, on the other hand, the chairman of NP had irresponsibly recommended a profit margin of one cent per litre."

It added, "regretably, many of us as dealers would face bankruptcy when the price of gasoline goes up again, without a justifiable increase in profit to the dealers".

The dealers have reportedly boycotted a

meeting called by NP yesterday at the NP training centre in Morvant to discuss matters relating to the petroleum industry with them. The dealers have vowed to maintain this boycott until the margin profit was increased.

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources had recommended a four cents margin profit but they were reportedly turned down. The dealers are seeking a restoration of the 27 per cent profit margin. At present most dealers said they were barely breaking even with the present 12 per cent profit margin.

They said that with the increase in the price of gasoline their profits will be nil. Many of them said that they may have to close down business. NP officials could not be reached for comment on this matter yesterday evening.

CARIBBEAN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE UNIT EYES AID TO GRENADA

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 21 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] An early completion to Grenada's Point Saline airport project, the possibility of establishing an Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) as well as incentives for light industrial plants were among areas looked at during a recent private sector meeting in Grenada.

The meeting was held between a top level mission from the Barbados-based Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) and the executive of the Grenada Chamber of Commerce.

A CAIC statement said that although a wide range of issues was raised and discussed, five specific subjects areas formed the focus of attention.
[as published]

Among these were the need for private sector representation as a vital input at the highest policy-making forums on the interim Government, the need to address serious liquidity problem of the private sector and the banking community in Grenada, the strengthening of the structure and staffing of the Grenada Chamber; and for businesses to be aware of the importance of political stability in the country.

The CAIC said that the private sector needed to make short, written representations on some specific issues related to the short-term recovery of the Grenadian economy.

"These included, inter alia, a case for reforming the existing tax system in respect of corporate, as well as other taxes; the possible need for a body such as an IDC to channel new investment--local and foreign into the island, and the need for an early completion of the Point Saline airport project, both as the basis for diversified investment in the island's undoubted tourist potential..." the statement said.

The CAIC has promised it would do everything within its power to help the Grenada Chamber.

CSO: 3298/340

HONDURAS, GUATEMALA TRADE NEGOTIATIONS FAIL

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 13 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] The governments of Honduras and Guatemala have been meeting in the capital of our neighbor since last Monday but have been unable to agree on any arrangement that would result in an improvement of the two countries' commercial relations. The talks practically broke down in the face of the Guatemalan government's refusal to suspend, in Honduras' case, the restrictions it has imposed on imports, including the requirement for obtaining licenses in advance in order to bring Honduran products into the market of the neighboring state.

Harsh Disappointment

The breakdown in the talks is a harsh disappointment for Honduras, which had taken the initiative for the dialogue, in search of an arrangement that would enable it to secure special treatment and maintain its export levels. The decision ostensibly harms the Honduran economy, which has been saturated with products from the neighboring country, a source not only of manufactured goods but also of raw materials. On the other hand, Honduras allows Guatemalan products to enter freely and applies to them only the reciprocal measure of requiring licenses, a measure that is standard for all the Central American nations with which we have commercial relations.

Reduced Trade

The Guatemalan decision has further narrowed the trade prospects for Honduras, which has lost advantages in all the region's markets, in addition to maintaining high deficits in its trade balance with the area.

Commercial relations with Nicaragua are at their lowest level, to the extent that the two countries have been unable to give effect to the agreement signed by their ministers of economy at the spa of Pochomil, where Honduras undertook to exempt certain Nicaraguan products from the payment of additional customs fees. In exchange, the neighboring country canceled an agreement by means of which it imposed restrictions on Honduran exports within its territory, as a result of which Honduras, after having enjoyed a favorable balance, has had a deficit balance with Nicaragua since 1981.

Costa Rica and El Salvador

The Salvadorans have also restricted imports and Honduras has been affected by this measure, while Panama appears to ignore the bilateral treaty governing its relations with Honduras. With Guatemala's imposition of restrictive measures, a circle of fire is closing around regional commercial relations that is affecting this country, especially with regard to its selling manufactured goods and obtaining foreign exchange.

12336

CSO: 3248/290

CENTRAL AMERICANS POLLED ON MARXISM, OTHER ISSUES

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 1 Dec 83 p 4A

[Article by Eduardo Castro of LA NACION]

[Excerpts] According to a poll conducted in Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador by the local firm Consultoria Interdisciplinaria en Desarrollo, S.A. [Interdisciplinary Development Consultants Corporation] [CID], the Costa Ricans are the Central Americans, the largest percentage of whom believe in the possibility of Marxism controlling the governments of the isthmus within the next 5 years.

According to the findings of the polls, middle and upper class Costa Ricans are the most inclined to believe in that possibility while the lower class sees this as less likely.

The Hondurans believe there is "little likelihood" that communism will take over the governments in the area, while the Salvadorans believe that it is improbable.

Polls

The CID polls were conducted during different months in 1983 in the three countries mentioned. In Costa Rica, 500 persons were interviewed in February in the Valle Central metropolitan area; in el Salvador, 498 persons were interviewed in the capital in July; in Honduras the poll was conducted in August among 700 citizens in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.

Employees of CID, a firm associated with the Gallup International Research Institutes, interviewed adults with at least the first year of secondary education and asked them 165 questions. The work was done under the direction of Dr Carlos F. Denton and Alda Maria Acuna. Each person interviewed was a native of the country in which the poll was being conducted. Pollsters also attempted to learn from these persons what they consider their country's main problems to be.

The Hondurans mentioned a possible war with Nicaragua as their main concern while the Costa Ricans mentioned problems with Nicaragua.

The Costa Ricans mentioned the following difficulties (in parenthesis is the percentage of those who gave the corresponding answers): problems with Nicaragua in general (26 percent)--the higher the education level, the greater the concern on this matter; foreign debt problems (22 percent); the country's balance of trade (12 percent); opposing political ideologies (12 percent); control of foreign terrorists (5 percent).

In Honduras, the causes of greatest concern are: a possible war with Nicaragua (24 percent); borders with El Salvador (21 percent); overall relations with Nicaragua (19 percent); lack of trade (18 percent); guerillas in neighboring countries and terrorism (15 percent).

In El Salvador the replies were: lack of foreign exchange and incoming foreign currency (15 percent); military intervention by communist countries--Cuba, Nicaragua--(11 percent); shortages of imported basic goods (7 percent); lack of foreign trade (7 percent).

Economy

In discussing domestic problems in depth in each of the three countries, the persons interviewed also expressed concern over the economic recession.

In this regard, the Costa Ricans expressed concern over the following matters (the percentages are placed between parentheses): the general economic crisis (48 percent); unemployment (29 percent); high cost of living (28 percent); housing shortages (12 percent).

The Hondurans expressed the following opinions: need for capital investment (44 percent); high cost of living (16 percent); need to increase production (14 percent); and inflation (11 percent).

The Salvadorans said the sources of their concerns are: general economic problems (28 percent); rising prices (24 percent); unemployment and lack of work (23 percent); shortages of basic necessity products (11 percent).

9204

CSO: 3248/277

CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AGREE ON JOINT TOURISM APPROACH

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 10 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Caribbean countries who have generally competed against each other for tourist traffic, have agreed on a joint marketing programme to woo more visitors to the region, Barbados Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism Bernard St. John has said.

"In the Caribbean it is very important to get across the concept that we have no way to go on an individual basis and that our real future lies in a joint effort."

"We are not competing really island for island against one another. What we are trying to do is to increase the total volume of business to the Caribbean area first, then we have to argue about the distribution between ourselves," St. John told reporters here Thursday night.

St. John was speaking at the close of what officials said was a historic landmark in Caribbean tourism, representing the first attempt by Caribbean countries to sit down and seek to devise a regional policy on tourism--an industry critical to the regions future. [as published]

The four day meeting under the auspices of the Barbados-headquartered Caribbean Tourism Research and Development Centre (CTRC) the New York-based Caribbean Tourism Association (CTA) brought together industry officials, airline representatives and aid donors.

St. John said the necessity for marketing on a joint basis took into consideration the fact that the Caribbean as a whole is a destination which is competing with other areas in the Far East, Africa and other parts of the world.

Looking at the European market whose poor performance was a major concern of the ministers, St. John said that a marketing consultant would be stationed in the Caribbean to help hotel associations and the air transportation companies to understand what the European visitors want.

He said that since 1979 the Caribbean had lost 70 per cent of its European traffic to countries in Africa, the Far East and Asia where the cost of a holiday for people from the continent had gone down.

The minister said this was because the strength of the U.S. dollar to which many Caribbean currencies are tied, had made Caribbean holidays expensive for Europeans.

"It is no fault of our own, it's just that our currency is tied to the U.S. and the value of their currency has dropped. (But) all of the islands have recognised that given the fact that the American dollar is strong the cost of a holiday in the Caribbean vis-a-vis an American has not been changed because of the currency," St. John said.

He said that a feasibility study had been carried out on the setting up of a Caribbean tour operating company but the decision to go ahead with the project does not lie with the government of the region.

He said they would now try to sell the idea to the private sector.

What was needed St. John said was for the implementation of a computerised reservations system for the Caribbean in the major tourist markets.

St. John said that the ministers also agreed to increase the use of the media and modern telecommunications in the marketing of tourism.

CSO: 3298/340

UWI, UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA PLANNING GRADUATE SCHOOL CONSORTIUM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Dec 83 p 17

[Text]

A consortium of graduate schools is soon to be created jointly by the Faculties of Social Sciences of the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana in an effort to foster growth and development in the Caribbean region, a news release said. The consortium will provide a reasonable way of integrating prescribed research in certain areas particularly that of technology research and policy.

This was stated by Dr. Eddie Greene, Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), as he spoke at the closing session of a workshop on Research and Policy for Technology Problems in the Caribbean on Friday, December 9, at the Carl Rattray Training Centre in Runaway Bay.

Dr. Greene said the workshop should be seen "as a process in the development of knowledge and a way of influencing the implementation of ideas and policies", and its participants should ensure

that information is brought to the attention of those who have the ability to do so, mainly through the dissemination of ideas.

This could be done, he said, through seminars and collaboration with institutions to package the information so as to make an impact.

ISER, he added, was itself forming liaisons with other agencies to attempt to advance knowledge on Science and Technology issues by encouraging and sponsoring future research in priority areas.

This workshop is the final in a series of four "Technology Workshop Projects" funded by the International Research and Development Centre (IDRC), Canada.

They were established to assist developing countries in building up and expanding the skills and experience of policy-makers and administrators who can both draw on available research results and generate new information when making decisions to ex-

ploit the potential of technology for social and economic development.

Three similar workshops were staged in East Africa (Tanzania), Francophone West Africa (Senegal) and Anglophone West Africa (Liberia) between April 1982 and April 1983. In each instance, the IDRC collaborated with a local institution (usually a Department of a University) concerned with research and technology issues. In the Caribbean's case, the collaborating institute was the ISER.

Lasting for a month (November 12 to December 10) the workshop attracted some 25 economists, engineers, natural scientists, analysts, researchers, policy-makers and planners from Antigua, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The curriculum included learning how to deal with technology policy issues at the level of research, policy-making and day-to-day administration; undertaking a research project (participants inves-

tigated the use of low, or high, technology by local enterprises); and discussions on the appropriateness, or inappropriateness, of foreign technology for Third World countries insofar as development is concerned.

Nine lecturers — six from the Caribbean, two from Latin America, and one based from the United Kingdom — provided instruction for the course. Among them were Jamaican economists Mr. Norman Girvan, Senior Transnational Affairs Officer, with the United Nations Center for Transnational Studies; and Dr. Omar Davies, Lecturer at the UWI.

Some felt that the workshop would have made more impact if top-level managers and industrialists from the private sector — the individuals who were directly involved in technology-related decision-making — as well as practising scientists and technologists, had been invited.

BRIEFS

CARICOM STATISTICAL PROGRAM--Georgetown, Dec. 16, (CANA): The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat has embarked on a programme to encourage member states to improve their collection of both production and marketing statistics. Senior marketing officer Winston Smith said here this is being done through the holding of a series of seminars in the various countries in the 13-member integration movement. Smith said the programme is also aimed at making farmers and marketing, in order to ensure that there is overall benefit from intra regional trade. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Dec 83 p 5]

CSO: 3298/323

BRIEFS

CDB DEVELOPMENT LOAN--The tiny British Caribbean colony, Anguilla (pop. 6 500) is borrowing US\$0.7 million from the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) for the development of agriculture, industry and tourism and the promotion of higher education, the CDB has announced. The CDB said it was the first loan to the 35 square mile island which became a full member of the bank in May 1982. The equivalent of EC\$300 000 (one EC dollar equals 37 cents U.S.) was paid last November 30 to the Government as the initial tranche of US\$0.7 million. Of the total sum EC\$1.02 million will be used for industrial credit and tourism EC\$600 000 for agriculture and EC\$270 000 to finance a students loan scheme. The loan, which will be administered by the state-run Anguilla Development Board (ADB) will be at four per cent interest, with a five-year grace period and repayment over the following 15 years. In addition to the provision of development financing, the CDB is helping Anguilla to improve the operations of the ADB through systems development and staff training. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 20 Dec 83 p 2]

CSO: 3298/348

ADAMS: NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. NEEDED AFTER GRENADA

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 11 Dec 83 p 38

[Text]

BRITAIN, Canada and the "new Caribbean" may have to work out special relationships with the United States, just as Britain does with the European Economic Community (EEC).

The opinion was sounded in London by Barbados' Prime Minister, Mr. Tom Adams, when he addressed the Royal Commonwealth Society last Friday.

Mr. Adams was examining what he considered as the new relationships, which could be expected to arise in the Commonwealth, in the wake of recent events in Grenada.

Speaking before a mixed audience in the British capital, the Barbados Prime Minister, who was in the vanguard of efforts to restore peace and constitutional rule in the Eastern Caribbean state, following the October "Palace Coup" and slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and his cabinet ministers, said it was "to fly in the face of Eastern Caribbean reality," to classify the United States-backed military intervention as another super power adventure.

He said whatever term (invasion, intervention, or rescue mis-

sion) was used to describe the liberation of Grenada from a vicious and unwanted regime, the happening was wildly popular among all immediately concerned.

The American troops were welcomed in St. George's as liberators, and resolutions of support were carried unanimously in all parliaments of the participating Eastern Caribbean states.

With the exception of Guyana, the regional press also firmly supported the intervention, and Mr. Adams disclosed that an opinion poll, carried out in Grenada itself by perhaps the most anti-administration of the American television networks, showed 91 percent support for the action.

Prime Minister Adams also dealt with reaction from the New Delhi Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference, and while he regretted the British Government had not taken an active role in Grenada, he said it was probably a result of "political vacuum created by Britain," that the United States was now visibly in the Caribbean.

CSO: 3298/341

DLP LEADER RESPONDS TO CHARGE PARTY ERRED ON GRENADA STAND

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 11 Dec 83 p 4

[Article by Erskine Sandiford, deputy leader of the Opposition]

[Text] IT IS JUST not true to say that in giving support, "Critical" or otherwise, to the government resolution on the Grenada matter, the Opposition "misjudged the mood of the Barbadian public at large."

If any misjudgement occurred, as Henry Christopher claims in his regular column in the Sunday Advocate of December 4, 1983, it would have been on the part of the government, which was clearly hoping that the Opposition would have been entrapped on the horns of some dilemma and would have voted against the resolution.

Having been frustrated in that hope, Henry Christopher and the government are now seeking refuge in splitting hairs over whether the Opposition's support was full and "unreserved", or whether it was "critical".

The background briefly is that on Tuesday, November 15, 1983, the government introduced a resolution which basically condemned the atrocities in Grenada, recited the events leading up to the intervention of the multi-national forces, and called upon the House of Assembly to do two things through the following operative clauses:

"BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House places on record its unreserved condemnation of the series of acts which created the anarchical conditions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House records its approval of the action taken by the Government of Barbados in responding quickly to the request of the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States so as to prevent further loss of life and abuses of human rights and to restore conditions of tranquility and

orderly government for the people of Grenada."

Almost a full month before that resolution saw the light of day, and even before the government on its own admission had made up its mind on a positive and legally justifiable course of action, the Democratic Labour Party had shown the way in no uncertain terms by means of a statement condemning the "inhuman and disgraceful events" in Grenada, and calling for "immediate international action to relieve the Grenadian people from the scourge of stalinist dictatorship."

So both the Opposition and the Government, in that order, condemned the atrocities. Both also indicated the need for international action. In those circumstances, how can Henry Christopher argue that the government is in tune with the mood of the public, but that the opposition is not? The many expressions of support and encouragement received from the public in respect of the stand taken by the Democratic Labour Party both in Parliament and outside fortifies us in the belief that our party is in tune with the mood of the Barbadian public.

In the same article, Henry Christopher makes the charge that "...the DLP has come across to the public as being unwilling to sink partisan political differences on certain occasions." It is most ironical that such a comment could have been made in relation to the Grenada affair! I am unaware that any consultations took place with the Opposition on the proposed intervention of the multinational forces, including Barbadian forces, into Grenada. It is also still apparently not clear whether the most strenuous or best efforts were

made by the government to effect that communication and consultation!

Be that as it may, the government had ample opportunity to make amends, and to show its genuine commitment to the processes of consultation, and to the consummation devoutly to be wished of sinking "partisan political differences on certain occasions." All the government had to do in this regard was to give the Opposition not special, but regular or adequate parliamentary notice that it intended on Tuesday, November 15 to have a full-blown debate on the Grenada matter, with full coverage by radio, TV or whatever.

Instead, on that date, and on a matter of such importance that its implications and ramifications reverberated in the halls of the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations, as well as in the major capitals of the world, the Barbados Government saw it fit to stage a virtual impromptu debate (impromptu for the Opposition, that is) in the House of Assembly on a resolution, the text of which the Opposition Members in Parliament had been given no real notice of!

Is that an example of parliamentary democracy at work? Is that what Henry Christopher means by sinking "partisan political differences on certain occasions"? So much for the Barbados Labour Party in government!

Let us now turn to the Barbados Labour Party in Opposition and remind Henry Christopher of that party's record for sinking "partisan political differences on certain occasions." The time of the struggle for the independence of Barbados in the mid 1960s was one such occasion, a time when "the very existence of the nation was at stake." The Democratic Labour Party government proposed that Barbados should no longer delay the shedding of its colonial status, but that it should grasp its nationhood and become a single, sovereign, independent nation. Did the Barbados Labour Party Opposition sink its partisan political differences on that occasion in the interest of forging a national consensus? No! Rather that party pursued its opposition and its political partisanship to the hilt!

It should have been clear to everyone that, if Barbados was to shoulder its responsibilities as a sovereign, independent state, it had to establish and maintain some form of defence over and above the purely domestic law and order activities of the Police Force.

During the period 1971 to 1976, the Democratic Labour Party government took steps towards the establishment of arrangements for the defence and security of Barbados.

The Democratic Labour Party clearly set out its position on the matter of the Defence Force in its manifesto for the 1981 general election. As Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security, I wish to restate that position once again. The party is conscious that the present reality of the world is one of an increase in sabotage, adventurism, terrorism and guerrilla activities. The party is also conscious that there is no shortage of individuals and paramilitary groups ready to incite insurrection and promote political instability.

In these circumstances the party is pledged to maintain a small, highly trained and effective disciplined Defence Force for the following purposes:

- (1) To repel external aggression and threats to our sovereignty and independence;

- (2) To protect the democratic institutions of the state from any attempts to overthrow the legally constituted government by force of arms;

- (3) To support the civil power in cases of any severe breakdown of law and order; and

- (4) To provide a body of disciplined persons in case of need arising out of national disasters.

At the same time the Party is conscious that the power of armies can be misused. We are fully conscious that the newly independent countries, particularly the small ones, are extremely fragile and open to dangers from direct assault, guerrilla activities, and from the coup d'etat. Therefore we are advocating a small force that will not cut too deeply into the national resources, and which will be well schooled in its duties to the civil power.

I hope that this exposition will lay the rest the accusation by Henry Christopher and those like him who claim without justification that the Democratic Labour Party is opposed to a Defence Force for Barbados. What we will continue to insist upon is that such a force must be accountable to Parliament, and that its deployment must be subject to parliamentary scrutiny. After all, we are a democratic party by name and nature, and we must take all possible steps to ensure that all of our institutions are responsive to democratic controls.

PAPER NOTES DANGERS INHERENT IN GAIRY RETURN TO GRENADA

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 18 Dec 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

SIR Eric Gairy has accused Caribbean leaders (Barbados exempted) of conspiring to prevent his return to Grenada. Apparently, he is thinking of seeking re-election to leadership when Grenadians return to the polls next year.

Such a decision may be valiant on his part. It is not particularly discreet. Sir Eric is clearly not convinced that discretion is the better part of valour.

In the best interest of Grenada, however, he should be persuaded to remain in Washington. There he can study the reports of Unidentified Flying Objects to his heart's contentment. And who knows what he may discover?

But to return to Grenada would pose a number of problems which, at this stage, promise considerable harm.

The first of these problems has already been set. It is whether or not he should be allowed entry. Legally, we imagine, there is no bar-

rier. The ball lies rather in his court: does he really welcome a Commission of Inquiry into his administration . . . for the second time?

Would the Interim Government institute such an investigation? If so, is there any danger of raising a social hornet's nest likely to exacerbate the already delicate situation in that island?

Again, if there is no such action by the Interim Government — and, to us, such a step would seem to be outside their scope — would he be permitted to enter the lists?

And if he entered and won, what then? Back to square one.

It would seem to us a case for discreet pressure on Sir Eric. Such pressure should come from those whose opinion he is known most to respect. And there must be no glare of publicity or rumour. There is a great deal at stake, and not only for Grenada.

CSO: 3298/341

UNION WARNS OF 'SOCIAL PROBLEMS' OVER UNEMPLOYMENT FUND

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 11 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

There will be "social problems" if Government does not take steps to make it easier for persons who made contributions to the Unemployment Fund to collect benefits after they have been laid off.

This warning has been given by General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) Mr. Frank Walcott.

Speaking at the union's weekly Press Conference last Friday at Solidarity House, Mr. Walcott responded to a question as to what provision the BWU would be making for the hundreds of workers who have been laid off in the manufacturing sector by pointing out that Government has collected over \$10 million through its Unemployment Levy.

He declared that the conditions under which workers who had involuntarily contributed to the fund could collect benefits after they had been laid off were very difficult, and there were "too many restrictions."

"If you make the payment of benefits from such an unemployment fund so difficult there will be a social problem," Mr. Walcott said.

When pressed to explain what he meant by "social problem" Mr. Walcott emphasised that he didn't "anticipate unrest" but he added, "When you can't feed your children or send them to school, that is a serious problem which will have far wider implications."

The union leader declared that the "problems are myriad, I can't tell you where they will end."

He said that whenever a person became unemployed, it had to be considered a serious problem for himself, his family and the immediate community.

"We at the union are very concerned whenever a wage earner is without employment," Mr. Walcott stated.

He said that there were about 110 000 people in Barbados for whom employment had to be found and this was a fact that any employment policy had to deal with.

However, Mr. Walcott pointed out that there will always be "cyclical unemployment" and therefore some provision had to be made for this through the setting up of unemployment funds or similar devices, but, at the same time, provision also had to be made for those who had made contributions to receive their due benefits without any difficulties.

"We have to live with the reality of short-term crises," he said.

When asked whether he favoured Government granting support to other sectors of local industry, in addition to sugar, Mr. Walcott said he was not prepared to make a statement on this but he noted that if Government gave support to one industry it would be forced to consider giving support to others if it did not want to find itself "pressed against the political consequences of the situation."

The BWU chief also said that for some time he has been stating that the local garment industry was in a poor state of health and required proper examination.

He stated that those involved in this sector should not have waited until there was a crisis, as at present, but should have already examined themselves realistically to see whether they could meet the conditions of today and the competition they have to eventually face.

FORMER MINISTER DON BLACKMAN MAY LOSE BLP MEMBERSHIP

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 11 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

GOVERNMENT MP, Dr. Don Blackman, who lost his Cabinet portfolio last September, now faces losing membership itself of the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP.)

Party sources say that the BLP's rank and file membership, disturbed by Dr. Blackman's recent attacks against Government, wants the former Minister of Health to declare his hand, and state whether he wants to remain on the back bench or cross to the Opposition side.

A senior BLP member denied reports that there was a coordinated effort to expell Dr. Blackman from the party, but said the executive council had recognised a general feeling within the party that the BLP would be better off without him.

"If Dr. Blackman wants to leave the party, he has our blessings. He can join the Democratic Labour Party (DLP), or form his own party. But he should let the public know what he intends to do. We may well have to give away the seat (St. Michael East) to another party, if he goes, but under the present conditions, we are going nowhere," the source said.

There are still conflicting reports as to whether Dr. Blackman tendered his resignation, or was fired by the Prime Minister, but when the revocation of his Cabinet appointment was officially announced, Dr. Blackman met with Opposition Leader Errol Barrow, and later told new reporters, he had crossed the Rubicon, meaning there was no chance of reconciling the differences between himself and the party's leadership.

He stormed out of the House of Assembly, after an attack by Government MP, Aaron Truss, who attempted to defend the Minister of Housing, L.B. Brathwaite, against blistering criticism which Dr. Blackman levelled against the minister on November 22. Since then the rift between the former minister and his parliamentary colleagues has widened.

Party sources told the SUNDAY SUN that if the former minister wanted to remain in their party, "for the benefit of the party," it would be a good thing, but they accused him of challenging the policies of Government and "washing dirty linen in public."

Said one party man: "He has disagreed with certain housing matters in his constituency in public. Under the circumstances, he might attack the Government on the IMF, Grenada, or a number of other matters in public tomorrow. We just don't know."

"If he is with us, he can disagree and even criticise us behind closed doors, but when we go to parliament we should be going as a united front," the senior party officer said.

Dr. Blackman at first would not comment on the reported attempts to get him out of the party, which he has been associated with since he was a schoolboy, except to say he was not "aware of what was going on."

Pressed further, however, he said: "In politics, anything is possible."

RESCUE OPERATION ON TAP FOR BELEAGUERED SUGAR INDUSTRY

Help for Small Farmers

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 9 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] The Government is prepared to take steps to ensure that small farmers continue to make a contribution to the sugar industry, said Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Johnny Cheltenham yesterday.

He lamented the fact that many small farmers did not avail themselves of the facilities offered under the price support to the sugar industry last year.

Mr. Cheltenham said: "They showed stout resistance to a loan even though it could have been converted to a grant. And we saw a dramatic decline in the contribution to the national output to the industry by the small farmers."

He said that not long ago, the small farmers' contribution had been put at 15 percent. He believed it was not more than nine percent now, and the trend was downward.

The agriculture minister, however hoped that this trend would be reversed.

He said it had been decided this year that small farmers were those who produced upwards of 400 tonnes of gross cane in the 1983 harvest. They would receive an outright payment to bring their total receipts to 64.75 cents per kilogram of sugar.

Dr. Cheltenham pointed out that to ease the small farmers' problems, it was proposed to engage at least three grower liaison officers, furnished with transport and communications equipment, and also the introduction of harvesting schedules to reduce the incidence of stale cane and increase haulage and harvesting equipment.

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 11 Dec 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] Minister of Agriculture Dr. Richard Cheltenham has emphasised the importance of the sugar industry to Barbados. He has also stressed the absolute necessity for the industry to solve its internal problems many of which were self-inflicted.

Dr. Cheltenham was speaking at a meeting of cane growers at the Hilton Hotel — a meeting which came in the wake of the Government's introduction to the legislature of the \$10 million 1983 Sugar Price Support Formula and sharp criticism from the Opposition that the taxpayers were being asked to support the wealthy people of Barbados.

The sugar industry in Barbados has been plagued by numerous problems during the past few decades and a number of modifications have had to be made to ensure its survival. A major re-organisation of the industry has been accomplished this year with Barbados Sugar Factories Limited and the Barbados Sugar Producers' Association being merged to form Barbados Sugar Industry Limited. It is hoped that this amalgamation will streamline the operation and avoid duplication in some areas. Hopefully, this will result in a cost saving.

Factory capacity has been systematically increased with modernisation and modification and with the construction of the new Portvale Factory in St. James. It is probably the most modern factory in the Caribbean area, but it still presents some problems.

Problems adversely affecting the sugar industry in Barbados include: misuse and damage to equipment by careless or inexperienced operators, slow service and maintenance, extraneous matter in reaped canes. This last creates problems in the factory with greater attention having to be

paid to cleaning and processing, and increased possibilities of damage. Down time during the harvest season as a result of such damage is a hard blow for the industry to take.

Significantly, Dr. Cheltenham announced a rescue attempt for small cane farmers. These small scale operators have been having severe problems getting their canes reaped and delivered to the factories. In spite of the special services for tillage, reaping and transport most are unable to make a profit. Several have quit sugar farming altogether. But the even more serious development is that those who have quit have left their lands idle, unused for other production. Small farmers will have an adjustment in the pricing system and reaping and delivery services will be upgraded.

The Government will guarantee a \$10 million bond issue to be floated by Barbados Sugar Industry Limited. The guarantee will be conditional on assurances from Barbados Sugar Industry Limited of:

- Installation of imbibition water metering services and juice scales in at least four factories in time for 1984 crop and in the remaining factories prior to the 1985 crop;

- Engagement of at least three grower liaison officers adequately furnished with transport and communications equipment and the introduction of harvesting schedules designed to reduce the incidence of stale cane;

- Continuation of the green cane incentive scheme and introduction of measures designed to reduce the incidence of cane fires in the Easter period;

- Steps taken to assist the small holder and to contribute to the transfer of ownership of plantation tenancies. and

— Modernisation of the industry job classification system.

Dr. Cheltenham has urged that wages negotiations be started and concluded with despatch so that reaping of the crop can start early. He warned that the industry was still suffering from the late start of three years ago. That late start was conditioned by protracted wages negotiations.

With all its knotty problems, sugar cane is still the most im-

portant agricultural crop in Barbados — both from an economic and an ecological point of view. We had better come to terms with this fact and minimise the political and emotional manoeuvrings that have characterised its management within the past several years. Let us talk less about the "few rich people" and concentrate instead on the thousands of who rely on sugar to make a living.

Cane Fires

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 9 Dec 83 p 3

[Text]

BARBADIAN fire bugs have been at work again. With the sugar crop some three weeks off, there have been five cane fires reported so far.

According to acting Fire Chief, Mr. William Jones this is a bad sign for the hard pressed sugar industry.

He noted that Barbadians should not throw valuable foreign exchange down the drain just because of selfish ideas.

He was some what pessimistic about pranksters reading about fires which were reported in the

news, and then going off to light the fields.

He said he was hoping for the cooperation of all as the crop draws near in having a fire free harvest.

In trying to prevent the high number of fires that occurred during the last year, three estates set up fire detection towers which resulted in the reduction of cane fires.

The three towers are a ten footer at Boarded Hall Plantation, a 25 footer on Benn Hill overlooking Bennetts Plantation, St.

James and another standing 40 feet tall at Applewhaites Plantation, St. Thomas.

Through the vigilance of the persons manning the towers on a 24-hour basis, a number of fires were spotted, and through communication from the towers to the plantations, water carts were able to extinguish them.

This action has been done on numerous occasions, since then and many acres have been spared the destructive fury of the firebugs.

Price Support Details

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 14 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Richard Cheltenham, yesterday outlined to the House of Assembly how the \$10 million price support for the sugar industry would work, how the money would be paid, and some of the conditions of the support.

After speaking on the assistance which will be given to small farmers, Dr. Cheltenham told the chamber that all sugar growers with outstanding bank debts would have their share of the support credited to their bank.

Others, he added, would be paid direct as was the case last year, when the industry was first given support of this nature. In addition, the minister made it clear that all farmers who ceased to grow canes after 1983 would not be entitled to support, but if the land was transferred to another who grew sugar cane, then he would be entitled to some support.

One of the conditions of the support, Dr. Cheltenham added, was that Barbados Sugar Factories Limited (BSFL) will have to install water metering devices and juice scales, in four of its six sugar factories for the 1984 sugar harvest and in all six by 1985. This, he added, was necessary to improve process control.

The minister acknowledged that a number of tenants of plantations who are entitled to purchase the land on which they now live as a result of recent legislation, had not yet received title deeds and, as a condition, BSFL will have to assist in the speeding up of this process.

The modernisation of job classification in the sugar industry has also been linked to the provision of price support, Dr. Cheltenham revealed.

Spelling out further the price support, Dr. Cheltenham stated that it was being done through budget financing and no one should get the impression that money was coming from the Treasury and going to the sugar industry.

"All we are doing is backing the issue," he added. This will have to be redeemed by 1990.

Before concluding, Dr. Cheltenham made it clear that the sugar industry should realise that there was a limit to the amount of debt it could absorb because too much debt would have a similar effect to no assistance being given in the first place.

Accusations Against DLP

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 14 Dec 83 p 12

[Text] The Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) was yesterday accused of having a reckless land policy during its tenure and almost causing the demise of the sugar industry.

According to Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Richard Cheltenham, even in the Opposition today, the DLP did not have any regard for the industry. He added that the party would force the demise of the industry although they did not have anything with which to replace it.

He said it was not until 1976 when the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) came to power that the McGregor Commission was established to look into the problems of the sugar industry--caused mainly by the policies of the DLP.

Dr. Cheltenham charged that dozens of estates were taken out of production and allowed to remain idle until someone came along and offered a price.

Morale

The year 1976 found the industry with very low morale and an acute depression, the result of 15 years of no policy, he added.

The first step of the then new administration, he added, was the establishment of the McGregor Commission, followed by the taking of steps to see that the industry survived into the 21st Century.

The Minister of Agriculture said it was often said that the problems of the industry were the result of external pressures, but this was only part of the problem.

"The problem has been largely of our own creation, and the lack of a policy and the deliberate plunging of the industry into depression."

Initiatives

Some of the initiatives taken by the BLP Government to get the industry back on its feet, Dr. Cheltenham stated, were the collapsing of the old levy system, the keeping of the Provident Fund, the establishing of a research and development committee, the setting up of a number of revolving funds, and the allowing of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) to go ahead with its pilot scheme for small holders mechanisation. [as published]

He said, too, that an extraneous matter price adjustment system was established so that producers of "clean canes" would not have to pay for persons who sent "dirty canes" to the factories.

Dr. Cheltenham also spoke of the Green Cane Incentive Scheme which had reduced the amount of burnt canes from 27 percent of total acreage two years ago, to four percent last year.

DLP Response

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 14 Dec 83 p 13

[Text] **OPPOSITION** spokesman on finance, Dr. Richie Haynes, charged in the House of Assembly yesterday that the lowest acreage of sugar ever planted in Barbados, was done under the Barbados Labour Party administration in 1982.

After quoting statistics from a Central Bank document, he said: "Between 1976 and 1982, they did not bring back one square inch of land into sugar cane in this country. In fact, there was a reduction."

He added: "They are even worse than that. If you look at the sugar produced per hectare in terms of tonnes, the lowest production took place, per hectare, in 1982."

Dr. Haynes, who was speaking on the \$10 million price support for the sugar industry said that under the Democratic Labour Party administration they had achieved higher levels of produc-

tion than any previous BLP administration, and even the present one.

Dr. Haynes rejected any suggestions about racial discrimination coming from the Opposition benches in the debate. "I am absolutely sure that no member of this House would allow his position in relation to the sugar industry, or any other sector of Barbados, to be informed by considerations of race."

The MP for St. Michael South Central, who was the Opposition's principal speaker in the debate, said that Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Johnny Cheltenham, seemed rather vague about the conditionalities of the price support.

Referring to what he called "uninformed propaganda" that the sugar industry had been run down by the DLP and had to be

resuscitated by the BLP, Dr. Haynes said:

"The sugar industry was never bankrupt under the DLP. It is bankrupt today."

He added that the industry was also now enjoying its third year of effective price support. He said that \$24 million had been given the industry in 1981; \$32 million in 1982 and \$10 million now — a total of \$66 million.

Dr. Haynes said the price support would be paid for by Barbadians who bought sugar-related products like sweet drinks, biscuits, and bread.

Continuing, Dr. Haynes said there had been a clear change in the management of the sugar industry and the attitude of the small farmer.

He noted that wages in the sugar industry had lagged behind those in other sectors of industry.

Dr. Haynes called on the Government to take stock in relation to the sugar industry.

House Action

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 14 Dec 83 p 13

[Text] The House of Assembly yesterday passed a resolution approving Government's support to the tune of \$10 million to the island's sugar industry.

The resolution, to approve the guarantee by the Minister of Finance of the payment of the principal and interest necessary for the redemption of the bonds issue to the sum of \$10 million, was passed after a lengthy and sometimes heated debate.

The \$10 million package to the sugar industry, the second of its kind to the financially troubled sector, was supported by the Opposition. Government first gave price support of some \$17 million to the industry in 1982.

Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Richard Cheltenham, in winding up the debate said that he was happy that in matters that were of grave importance there be unanimity and bi-partisan support, as in the case of the price support.

The minister pointed out that effective from this reaping season new accounting practices would be put in place and that the small farmers who contributed so much to the industry would be given additional help in the reaping and carting of their canes to the factory. Consideration would also be given to the setting of reasonable prices for freighters of these small farmers.

The minister said he fully supported the calls by the Opposition that the industry import directly and leave out the middle men, adding that he felt that this was something which Government should insist be done. He had earlier pointed out it was known that the sugar industry had had a long history of connection with the local mercantile community.

Taitt Exception

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Dec 83 p 11

[Text]

Former Barbados Trade Minister Branford Taitt said in Parliament on Friday Government would not be able to keep its promise to make this the final year of a price support scheme for the privately-owned sugar industry and he called for similar assistance for the non-sugar agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

The Opposition parliamentarian told the House of Assembly that given the history of price support mechanisms, first introduced in the U.S. in the 1930s, once started they keep rolling.

And, he cited the experience of the European Economic Community (EEC) with butter and the common agricultural policy.

Taitt, who served in the Cabinet of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) administration during 1971 to 1976, made the remarks during debate on a

Resolution to approve Government's guarantee of a \$10-million (one Bds dollar equal 50 cents US) bond issue to be floated by the sugar industry.

It will be the second support scheme for the foreign exchange earning industry in two years and Government says will be the last.

However, Taitt suggested that the scheme will not be stopped and he argued that the sugar industry has never paid back its capital debt.

Sugar, Barbados chief agricultural export, has for years now faced financial difficulty. Production which hit a rock bottom 85,000 tonnes this year, has been low, production costs high and export prices depressed. (CANA)

GOVERNMENT'S BORROWING AUTHORITY EXTENDED BY SENATE

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 Dec 83 p 15

[Text]

THE Barbados Senate yesterday amended the Special Loans Act, giving Government authority to extend the limit on sums of money which it could borrow from any bank or other financial institution.

The bill, which stood in the name of Leader of Government Business in the Upper Chamber, Senator Nigel Barrow, was introduced by Minister of Energy, Senator Clyde Griffith.

It sought to extend the limit of \$200 million to the sum of \$375 million.

Moving second reading of the bill, Senator Griffith, pointed out that if Government was to continue with its economic programme it would need to undertake further borrowing for these priority areas.

According to him, at the end of July, the national debt stood at

\$837.3 million, of which \$196 million had been borrowed locally. The rest, he added, had come from international financial institutions.

CAUTION

Supporting the amendment, Senator Wendell McClean, however, pointed out that there were two recent developments which showed that Government must exercise caution.

According to him, the \$130 million sequestered through the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMFC) and the financing of the new Central Bank building which had the same effect on the economy as if it were a Government building financed by the Central Bank, had left Government with less room to manoeuvre.

Newly-appointed Senator, Owen Arthur, in supporting the bill, also sounded a word of caution to Government.

He said that "we were coming to the end of the cycle of fiscal expansion where the Govern-

ment was involved in high priority projects like at Oistins and Heywoods." And he pointed out that in future the range of projects which would justify this foreign borrowing should be designed to enhance the economy.

Senator Arthur said that he would urge Government to take the necessary steps to make sure that projects could lead to an expansion of the island's foreign exchange generating capacity.

MAJOR PROBLEM

In winding up the debate, Senator Griffith noted that one of the major problems of the CMCF was that Guyana was allowed to purchase oil through it while Barbados was not allowed to.

"If we had been allowed to," he added, "we would not have had the significant credit build-up."

He further noted that the only way the foreign debt could be serviced was through the earning of foreign exchange.

CSO: 3298/343

GOVERNMENT PREDICTS MODEST ECONOMIC GROWTH IN 1984

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 13 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

BARBADOS expects to end this year with "some growth" in its economy, a reversal of the trend of the last two years of economic recession.

So said Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism, and Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Bernard St. John, as he led discussions yesterday morning with a visiting congressional team from the state of Ohio, United States.

Mr St. John told the congressmen that Barbados earned its livelihood in recent years primarily from tourism, manufacturing and agriculture, and the United States had been the country's largest trading partner.

"These areas of economic activity," he added, "have suffered like other countries in the world, over the course of the last two years from the persistent recession

which has gripped every country in the world.

"This year there has been a slight evidence of improvement in some of the sectors of our economy and it is predicted that we may well end up with a growth in our economy."

He said, too, that the efforts made over the last two years to promote Barbados in the United States were paying off and that for the first five months of this year, visitor arrivals from that country had risen by some 60 percent.

"This has occurred, also, because of the improvement in our accessibility by air, since the signing of a new air service agreement with the United States," Mr. St. John noted.

He said, too, that Barbados' electronic industry, which catered mainly to the United States had been "vigorous" during the years.

CSO: 3298/343

ILLEGAL IMPORTS UNDERMINE LOCAL MANUFACTURING

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 11 Dec 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] The Barbados Manufacturers Association (BMA) has been drawing attention to the seriousness of illegal imports both in the context of the Caricom trading agreement and of local laws. From what the BMA has been saying the merchandise involved is worth millions of dollars and the people responsible are so well organised that the authorities will have to set up special systems to put the law-breakers out of business.

The seriousness of the illegal trading is brought home by the fact that it is undermining the local manufacturing industry in a number of areas, especially the garment manufacturing. The BMA spokesmen have been at pains to point out that the illegal import of garments is not just a question of some housewives bringing in a few blouses or a couple pairs of jeans. What is really undermining the local garment industry are big business deals on an international scale that lead to the movement of garments throughout the region almost with impunity.

For a start, the BMA has pointed out that the fines imposed on those caught in the illegal business are so small compared with the millions of dollars they hope to make if not caught, the culprits are prepared to take the chance. Stiffer sanctions are therefore necessary to make these people think twice.

There is also the necessity of monitoring products sold locally with a view to singling out those that have been brought into the country illegally. This would mean that even if the culprits get through Customs with their illegal importations the law could still catch up with them later once they dare to offer these imports for sale to the public. This could be a vital weapon in the fight against the illegal imports. People caught with such items should be brought before the Courts once these items can be identified.

At the moment there are a number of items that are known to have been brought into the country illegally on sale in a number of Bridgetown stores and nothing is done about it. It makes a joke about having restrictions.

And let us not fool ourselves that these people are in business to help Barbadians. They are concerned with helping themselves for they know they stand to gain heavily through their illegal business. They would be even prepared to pay out heavily to keep this type of business going. The authorities therefore have to make a number of serious decisions if these people are to be put out of their illegal business.

There must be steps taken to eliminate the loopholes in the law that now permit people who deal with these illegal imports to get away with it. The manufacturers are pleading for help in this direction. We think they deserve the required support.

CSO: 3298/343

OPPOSITION DLP BLAMES GOVERNMENT FOR TRADE DIFFICULTIES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 9 Dec 83 p 2

[Text]

Opposition spokesman on Finance and Planning, Dr. Richie Haynes has said that the present crisis facing Barbadian manufacturers was in a large measure the result of a series of errors made by Government here.

Dr. Haynes who addressed the St. Michael North West branch of the Democratic Labour Party held at the St. Stephen's Primary School said the errors were not only at "the level of financial and economic management but in the political and diplomatic areas."

He said: "The non-enclave manufacturing sector of Barbados is structurally geared to meet the demands of the local and Caricom markets and it is highly unlikely that this sector could compete successfully outside of this area for a variety of reasons."

The Opposition spokesman said the Government has done about everything to make life as difficult as possible for the manufacturers. Dr. Haynes said over the

past two years considerable damage was done by Government policies in relation to interest rates, various forms of taxation including the levies, its credit policies, the high rentals, electricity and water rates and its attitude towards a reasonable and selective measure of protection in the light of existing conditions, influenced by those who finance its political campaigns.

"Its failure to implement an energy plan which would substantially reduce the cost of energy while promoting a more secure market for our exports to the most viable market in the Caribbean remains a mystery to all thinking persons," he added.

Dr. Haynes said the recent "diplomatic blunder" in relation to Trinidad and Tobago, following on several errors of judgement in relation to that country, will be paid for by loss of thousands of jobs here in Barbados. Each vulgar word will cost a thousand jobs, said Dr. Haynes. "Ancient legend told of a

face that launched a thousand ships: when the word 'liar' was used in relation to the Trinidad High Commissioner, we were hearing a voice that launched two thousand hardships."

Dr. Haynes said that the job losses and underemployment in the manufacturing sector were in fact going on since September 1981 and, whether we like it or not, the repair of relations with Trinidad and Tobago is a vital prerequisite to getting the manufacturing sector moving again.

"There is little point in trying to brush aside the effects of the massive devaluation in Jamaica or the foreign exchange problems facing that country.

"We have to face the fact that the purchasing power of the Jamaican people has been severely reduced: that under the IMF agreement it cannot be restored through wage increases and no matter what automatic adjustments take place, the Jamaicans will buy less from all sources in the foreseeable future."

MANUFACTURERS HIT FOR FALSE CHARGES AGAINST TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

St John Accusations

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Government has rejected claims by some local manufacturers that hundreds of workers have been laid off because of problems created by the new foreign exchange regulations implemented by Trinidad and Tobago.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry Bernard St. John yesterday took issue with those local businessmen whom he said had been giving misleading information to the press.

He accused them of having a political axe to grind by making political mileage out of the situation, and criticised the news media for publishing the number of lay-offs supplied by the manufacturers without checking the source of the information. He also said that from all evidence 1983 had not been a year in which exports had fallen.

Since the measures were announced in October by Trinidad, manufacturers here have been complaining of getting their goods to that country and have confirmed there have been lay-offs in the sector. In one instance as many as 1 500 workers were said to be out of work.

Mr. St. John who called a news conference yesterday on

the matter said that in view of the statements that appeared in the press he had requested the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation (EPC) to carry out a detailed survey of 80 manufacturers who at one time or the other had exported to Trinidad and Tobago.

Of those 80 surveyed, 69 provided information which revealed that only 136 persons had been laid off with another 40 pending, Mr. St. John said.

He said the survey also revealed that for the month of October, Barbados exported \$4.3 million in goods to Trinidad and Tobago and for the month of November approximately \$13 million.

In October last year Barbados' exports to Trinidad totalled \$7.5 million and \$10.8 million in November 1982.

According to Mr. St. John: "We have cross-checked very carefully the result of this with the Central Bank figures on exports and they are similar, also checked with the National Insurance and other agencies responsible for employment and neither produced evidence to indicate that there had been lay-offs to the extent of those published in the media."

He said further that he had been in contact with members

of a government appointed task force including the president of the Barbados Manufacturers Association (BMA), had perused the minutes of the EPC, and in none of the contacts had any officials of the BMA been able to challenge the veracity of the EPC's statement.

"It is therefore clear to me that there is an orchestrated campaign by a small segment of the manufacturers together with a few political people to use the situation for their own political gains," Mr. St. John charged.

He added: "I find it impossible to accept this relationship that we have built up in this Ministry with the BMA can continue if the association does not discipline its members who attempt to pervert the institution for political purposes."

"You don't play around with serious business of this kind and if they are political aspirants in the BMA they should not seek to use the association for political purposes", he said.

Mr. St. John said he will not be bullied by any attempts by two or three manufacturers who had a political axe to grind, in recommending "any foolish action to deal with the situation."

Criticism of Media

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 15 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] THE local media came in for strong criticism yesterday from Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce, Mr Bernard St. John, during a Press briefing at his Pelican, St. Michael, office.

The minister severely criticised the media for reports over the past four weeks about the impact

of the Trinidad and Tobago restrictions on the manufacturing sector in Barbados.

Mr. St. John said that nowhere in the media had he seen any question about the sources of statements. No serious analysis had been done as the source of the information, he said.

The minister described the media reports as a campaign by political aspirants to use the manufacturing sector for their personal gain, but warned that he did not intend to allow the employers and the Ministry of Trade to be used as a political football.

CSO: 3298/344

CHINESE VEGETABLE-GROWING EXPERIMENT PROVES SUCCESSFUL

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 12 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] The Chinese experiment in growing and introducing new types of vegetables to Barbados has proved lucrative enough to earn some Bds\$20 000 in only six months.

This was the word from Mr. Ernest Payne, Deputy Chief Agriculture Officer (Extension and Development), in giving a review of the project after its first year of operation.

The Chinese who are conducting the experiments in growing the vegetables at the Home Vegetable Cultivation Experimental Centre, in St. Philip, arrived in Barbados in late December last year.

Samples of their work were put on display last Saturday night at the Great Duck (Chinese) Restaurant, at the Sierra Hotel, Hastings, Christ Church, along with dishes prepared with the vegetables.

Mr. Payne said that the Chinese had proved to be very efficient producers of vegetables and the main problem now faced was to get Barbadians to accept a number of the new vegetables that had been cultivated but which were new to Barbadians.

Two which have proved popular so far are the Chinese Cabbage and the Yard Long Bean, which are being sold on the local market.

Mr. Payne said that once the constraints about acceptance were overcome, the project could do and earn a lot more.

He appealed to Barbadians to try and become more familiar with the new varieties of vegetables the Chinese has introduced to the island. [as published]

In order to assist in this direction, recipes using the new vegetables as main ingredients, have been prepared by Miss Sylvia Walker through the Ministry of Agriculture and these recipes are available to the public.

The project will soon be moving into its second phase with the Chinese going into the community and showing local small farmers how to grow the new vegetables.

Mr. Payne observed that the Chinese on the team worked very hard, at least 10 hours a day, and that it might be difficult to get the local farmers to work that hard.

However, he said, every effort will be made to introduce the new vegetable to Barbadians small farmers and housewives.

The dishes prepared from the Chinese vegetables were done by two Chinese cooks, Mr. Wang and Mr. Liu, who recently arrived in Barbados. They worked under the direction of Mr. John Chu who is in charge of the cuisine at the Great Duck and Flower Drum restaurants.

Mr Payne thanked the People's Republic of China, for making the Chinese farmers available to Barbados. The function was attended by the Chinese Ambassador to Barbados, Mr. Wang Tao.

The new vegetables include Chinese Carrot, Swamp Cabbage, Garland Chrysanthemum, Musk Melon, and Yam Bean, apart from the Flowering Chinese Cabbage, the Yard Long Bean and a new variety of White Radish.

CSO: 3298/344

YOUTH GROUPS MEET; YOUTH COUNCIL WARNS POLITICIANS

BYC 'No-Strings' Policy

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 19 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Neville Martindale]

[Text] The Barbados Youth Council (BYC) yesterday sent out a terse warning to politicians at the next general election: Hands off.

It came from BYC's president, Mr. Everton Cumberbatch, in his presidential statement at the inaugural and award ceremony at the Barbados Community College.

He noted that statistical projections indicated that by 1986, the year that elections are constitutionally due, the youth would be about 67 percent of the electorate, and the politicians were aware of this.

"Naturally", he said, "the Youth Council can be the most strategic organisation at such a time. But a word of warning to the politicians, 'hands off!'"

Mr. Cumberbatch added: "The Barbados Youth Council will not be manipulated to any political end. Support and contributions to the council must be without strings attached."

He said that Barbados' young people were intelligent and they would make their own decisions. The Barbados Youth Council would not be used as a vehicle for any political party, he emphasised.

And he continued: "What is given to us must not be seen as theirs, but as ours. Furthermore, the comments, criticisms and commendations of the Youth Council must not be interpreted to mean we are canvassing for any political party.

"Anything we say will only be in the interest of our young people and of our country," Mr. Cumberbatch said.

Mr. Cumberbatch stated that it was good to see young people involved in political activity--partisan or non-partisan--but they must realise that their youthful talents warrant more than political noise-making.

He pointed out that over 50 percent of the population was under 25 years old, and it was unfortunate that not many of them realised their collective strength in this country.

The BYC president said: "Had we this realisation, we would certainly be more recognised as the leaders of tomorrow, and would be demanding the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process in this country."

He felt that the BYC should be represented on all the appropriate public corporations and Government agencies.

"We are all aware that participation is a part of the theme for International Youth Year", the BYC president said.

Socialists' Plans

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 19 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] During the coming year, the main objective of the League of Young Socialists will be to increase the nucleus of members, and to foster a greater relationship with other organisations. In addition new and meaningful programmes, will be introduced.

Stating this yesterday evening was newly elected president of the youth arm of the Barbados Labour Party, Mr. Leroy Parris, as he delivered the president's address, minutes after being officially installed by Mr. Aaron Truss, a government member of Parliament.

Mr. Parris told the meeting of young socialists that it was his intention to involve as many members of the league as possible in activities related to the organisation.

He added that sub-committees were being established to effect the new standard of operations, with two of these sub-committees, the entertainment and membership committees, already functioning.

He pointed out that by January next year, a disciplinary committee and a manifesto committee would be formed.

The manifesto committee, he said, would look at further programmes of development for the country and make recommendations to the party's central campaign committee.

Mr. Parris pledged to concentrate on areas of national development within the scope of the league since it had its own limitations, and because of this would be unable to look at all areas.

CSO: 3298/344

POLICE PROGRAMS ADVANCE, CRIME DROPS; GUN DRIVE SHIFTS

New Assignments

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 Dec 83 p 11

[Text] **THE** third phase of the Resident Beat Scheme of the Barbados Police Force was officially launched on Tuesday.

The scheme, started more than a year ago, has been quite successful, it was stated.

According to Police Public Relations Officer, Allan Longe, the scheme has proven to be a step in the right direction in bringing the police much closer to the public.

He noted that with the introduction of the 20 new recruits

to the scheme, the lawmen would be better able to tackle problems in some of the areas where there is an upsurge of crime.

STATIONS

The officers have been assigned to six police stations. Four officers have been stationed at the Hastings station, four at Worthing, four at Black Rock; three at District "D"; one at the Bridge and Harbour and four at the Hometown Police Station.

With the introduction of the new officers, the scheme now has 45 members in its ranks.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Charles Lunn, who once headed the Crime Department,

said in an interview earlier this year that the scheme was not only to improve the harmonious relations between the police and the public, but also to seek to solve some of the problems facing citizens.

Lunn at that time noted that since the introduction of the scheme, there was not only an improvement in the relationship between the police and the public, but also the force had been able to identify and solve problems.

He noted that by talking to persons a high percentage of information was "leaked out", and so the police were in a better position to tackle certain problems.

Commissioner's Report

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 20 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] **COMMISSIONER** of Police, Mr. Orville Durant, yesterday expressed "a real sense of achievement" at the significant reduction in the level of serious crimes, including armed robbery and violent assaults on Barbadians and visitors.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of the

Barbados Police Association at Police headquarters, Mr. Durant said that the recent achievements of the police force offered considerable hope for continued improvements in law and order and should see a drop in crime for 1983.

"By effective use of all resources," the commissioner said, "... we have been able to reverse the upward trend in crime in general and serious crime in particular, and for the

first time in many years we seem set to record a reduction of crime in this country.

"This development provides us with a real sense of achievement, and for me, it is a source of personal relief, since I had great apprehension about the level of serious crime involving the use of guns, knives and other dangerous and offensive weapons.

"Since January this year, when fully armed robbery prevention squads were instituted to respond to the serious crime of armed robberies and violent assaults on Barbadians and visitors alike, there has been little evidence of this type of criminal conduct."

Durant announced that robbery patrols continued in full force and were being intensified at seasonal times to deal with threats perceived through credible information reaching the police department, as well as through close analysis of the activities of those suspected of being involved.

In giving precise figures of the achievements of the police force, Mr. Durant said: "Probably the most outstanding achievement in

the field of crime prevention for 1983 has been a 40 percent reduction over last year's figures in the incidence of crime against visitors, and a 60 percent reduction over the 1981 figures.

"We have, of course, examined the number of visitors to Barbados this year, but all statistics available to us indicate an increase in visitors over the 1982 figures."

There has also been a startling reduction in the number of

juveniles known to be involved in crime and figures up to the end of November show that 91 juveniles had been charged with various crimes, compared to 180 last year, he added.

Mr. Durant said that police machinery for the detection of juveniles in crime was now being scrutinised to make it more effective, but added that the Juvenile Liaison Scheme had received overwhelming public support.

Illegal Guns Campaign

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 20 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] POLICE in Barbados will from January 1, institute a series of measures to recover unlicensed firearms.

In making this disclosure, Commissioner of Police, Mr. Orville Durant told members of the Barbados Police Association yesterday that the amnesty for unlicensed firearms will come to an end at midnight on December 31.

In addition, Mr. Durant said that because the response was not encouraging, the police action would be stepped up, adding that he had been assured by the Attorney-General, Mr. Louis Tull, that tougher legislation to deal with persons in possession of unlicensed firearms would be laid in Parliament soon.

In a wide-ranging address, Mr. Durant said that all classes of crime, except miscellaneous had showed a decline. Day-time house breakings and praedial larceny, he said, had proven to be a challenge to the force throughout the year.

The former, he said, had resulted in an expansion of the resident beat officer scheme to facilitate the development of a new crime prevention programme which will be known as "neighbourhood watch".

"In this programme, RBOs will organise consultative committees within each community, and these committees will themselves, under the guidance of the RBOs and other police officers, assist in the detection and identifica-

tion of criminals operating in their respective communities.

"In other words, the neighbourhood watch for communities will be made up of members of each community, representing the interest of the community in all matters of law and order and in matters relating to all police activity within that specific community.

"This programme is being scheduled to take effect on February 1, 1984, and should be a major factor in the reduction of crimes and other acts of lawlessness," Mr. Durant said.

CSO: 3298/345

BRIEFS

MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS--Miss Antoinette Forte, representative of the Ministry of Education on the Board of Management of the St. Michael School has been transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Bruce Alleyne has been appointed to replace her. In other Ministry of Education news, Mr. Earle Newton has been appointed to the Board of Management of the Alexandra School and Mr. L. Edwin Pollard has resigned from the Board of Management of the Barbados Community College. Mr. Ralph (Bizzy) Williams has been appointed to the Board of Management of the Community College and Mr. Alston Fergusson has been appointed to the Board of Management of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. In news of other appointments, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs has reappointed Mr. Gilbert B. Brandford to be a member and chairman of the Public Utilities Board for a period of one year with effect from November 10, 1983. Mr. Marcel Murrell has also been re-appointed to be a member of the Public Utilities Board for a period of one year with effect from November 16, 1983. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Dec 83 p 2]

'NO-ELECTION' PROMISE--There will be no snap elections in Barbados. Stating this yesterday was parliamentary representative, Mr. Aaron Truss, as he delivered the installation address at the League of Young Socialists' meeting at Grantley Adams House, Roebuck Street. Mr. Truss said that there would be no elections until at least 1985, since the present government would have to see the coming year through first. He also called on the young socialists, the youth arm of the Barbados Labour Party, to get hold of the electoral lists as soon as they become available and write congratulatory letters to the newcomers to the lists. He noted that letters should also be written inviting the newcomers to become involved, in an effort for the League of Youth Socialists to "spread its wings". He said too that the league must be prepared to write letters to the press. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 19 Dec 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/345

UDP ELECTION VICTORY IN BELIZE CITY ELICITS REACTION

PUP, UDP Statements

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 18 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Belize City, Thurs., Dec. 15

With sixteen hundred votes to spare, the United Democratic Party scored a clean sweep victory at the polls yesterday, dislodging the incumbent People's United Party from all nine seats of the Belize City Council and posting majorities ranging from small to large in all six electoral divisions of the city.

On a low-poll day involving only 57 per-cent of the registered voters (nine per-cent less than three years ago) the United Democratic Party emerged from the shambles of 1979 and 1980 with impressive vitality, capturing more than 58 per-cent of the popular vote.

It is the third City election that the PUP have lost in four tries and the most disastrous set-back the party has had since its formation. Seen as a massive repudiation of the PUP and its leadership, the election results are an unequivocal message to Pancho, and a fore-warning of things to come.

With general elections due within the next twelve months the message from voters is seen to have an urgency about it that the Prime Minister and his regime cannot fail to note.

While the P.U.P. has declined a REPORTER invitation to comment on the election result, "off record," the PUP hierarchy appears to be convinced that the troubles of the Electricity Board are responsible for their humiliation at the polls.

UDP spokesmen on the other hand have been less inhibited. "It is the beginning of the end of PUP hegemony in Belize" Opposition Leader in the House, Mr. Curl Thompson told the REPORTER. "This election for the first time in recent years has put the Belize situation in true perspective."

The UDP claimed victory from 4 o'clock this morning after all the solid votes had been counted, checked and re-checked. But it was not until

8 o'clock, four hours later, that the PUP conceded defeat and an announcement was made by the Chief Returning Officer, Mr. Morrison over Radio Belize.

UDP accounts of the election count now show that the UDP won by 484 votes in the Freetown Division and by 426 votes in the Collet Division. UDP's lowest poller had outpolled the PUP's highest scorer by an incredible 1,600 votes.

PUP Internal Division

Belize City AMANDALA in English 16 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Dec. 16

By 9:30 Wednesday night up at St. Mary's Hall, PUP Attorney General Said Musa did not need a weatherman to tell him which way the winds were blowing and stalked downstairs, saying to UDP bar members, "Some heads will roll."

The inference was that he and Health Minister Assad Shoman, considered leaders of the PUP left wing, would make an all out effort to guillotine Energy Minister Louis Sylvester, a leading right wing force in Cabinet.

When the PUP loses an election, the search immediately begins for scape-

goats, and the PUP left have already chosen theirs, and his name is Luigi. The left is arguing that its candidates - Montejo, McField, Fonseca, and Chavez were the top vote getters among the PUP candidates, while right wingers Harry Lui and Victor Usher fared poorly.

For their part, the right is saying there were too many leftists on the slate.

But for their part, the people of Belize are saying left, center, right, what does it matter when they are all PUPs and sworn believers in a tired and run down party personality cult.

Problem of Constituencies

Belize City AMANDALA in English 16 Dec 83 p 2

[Text]

According to Article 90, section 1, subsection (a) and (b) of the Constitution of Belize, 1981, each electoral division shall have as nearly as may be an equal number of persons eligible to vote, but in any case shall have not less than two thousand, nor more than three thousand, such persons; and the total number of electoral divisions shall be not less than eighteen nor more than twenty nine.

The Elections and Boundaries Commission should therefore begin the job of cutting the Freetown, Collet, and Albert divisions so as to comply with the law.

In practise, it is Price Escalante who will tell the EBC how to do its job, and he has been waiting for a detailed study of the City Council election voting patterns before he begins the cutting.

The problem is acute for him personally, because Freetown, his personal division, should yield Castle, Yorke, Freetown, and Kelly Sts. to Pickstock division. Freetown

is larger than the stipulated size and Pickstock smaller than stipulated.

But the streets which should go to Pickstock are exactly the streets which saved the Prime Minister from electoral defeat in the last general elections in 1979. Price Escalante is therefore in an agony.

The results of Wednesday's election may make his job easier, we are thinking, because the results indicate that whatever he does, he will lose in Freetown next year. Hey, maybe he can muscle Louie out of Belize Rural South. Cinco, seis.

Election Analysis

Belize City DISWEEK in English 16 Dec 83 pp 2, 11

[Editorial]

[Text]

The massive defeat of the People's United Party in Wednesday's Belize City Council elections was not so much an expression of voter preference for the policies, performances or candidates of the United Democratic Party as a message to the PUP to put its house in order or face electoral defeat.

This was the first election contested by the PUP since the PUP national convention of 29 May 1983 installed the present Central Executive with Louis Sylvestre remaining as Chairman and Florencio Marin effectively acting as Secretary General. (Since the discredited Mark Cuellar was dismissed as Party Secretary, no other person has been appointed to the post.)

The results are nothing that the new executive can be proud of. In a detailed analysis of the convention, 'disweek' (3 June) had stated that the party machine had manipulated the convention, giving precise illustrations of the railroading that was carried out before and during the convention to ensure Sylvestre's victory. As we predicted then, that victory has proven to be illusory.

What escaped no one's notice at the time was that Belize City delegates voted almost unanimously against Sylvestre. They were deeply offended by the tactics used to re-elect him, and many of the best and hardest-working Party campaigners became disillusioned and discouraged. After the convention, there came the much-publicized libel case in which Sylvestre's character was attacked; and, most importantly, the terrible series of blackouts that, rightly or wrongly, most voters blamed Sylvestre for. As we said in our editorial of 25 November, "If the blackouts persist or get worse, the PUP is in bad trouble." They did, and it is.

The PUP, however, need not feel too put out by this setback. One clear indication is the extremely low voter turnout, one of the lowest in our history. This indicates that there was not a massive popular wave against the party. What is more likely is

that PUP supporters stayed away because they were still smarting from the treatment meted out to them at the convention, because they were embarrassed by the blackouts and because they are unhappy about the apparent unwillingness of the party leader to do something positive about the Chairman who, despite his great efforts to win re-election, has continued to be a singularly inept and inactive chairman, and has, if anything, increased his sowing of disunity and discord in the party.

What this means is that the PUP has a good chance for mending its fences in time to face the general elections next year. We are not saying that the UDP got out all its voters; there was indeed a general apathy about these elections that no doubt affected the UDP as well. But there is little doubt that UDP voters, as well as those noncommitted voters who wished to register a protest against the blackouts and the economic situation, were more motivated to get to the polls. It is the PUP that suffered most from the low turn-out. If it ~~can~~ get those PUP supporters to the polls for the general elections, its chances are better than good.

And so we enter 1984, general election year, with a UDP landslide victory in Belize City that will no doubt give that party a much-needed psychological boost. After all, it is the first election contested by the party since Esquivel was elected leader. (Where, incidentally, does this leave Lindo, waiting in the wings to make a comeback?) But it would be a mistake to think that the Belize City results portend a national trend in favour of UDP policies. For one thing, the poll was much too low. For another, the level of interest in these elections outside of Belize City was at an all-time low.

It does mean, however, that the PUP will have to do some housecleaning if it is to put up a good showing in the general elections, particularly in Belize City. It will have to do something about its chairman. It will need to appoint a good — and generally acceptable — Secretary General. It will have to deal with the fact that the Party Leader's constituency was among the worst losers. This is probably less an indication of his personal unpopularity than a signal that he should deal firmly — and democratically — with the problems in the party and government.

The UDP's best hope is that, in fact, the PUP hierarchy will draw all the wrong conclusions from this defeat. It is, admittedly, hard for a Central Executive to honestly criticize itself; much easier, and more in keeping with tradition, to look for scapegoats outside itself.

The lights went out for the PUP in Belize City last Wednesday, and largely because of the blackouts and all that's associated with them. Those lights can burn brightly again — but only if Party leaders

them. Those lights can burn brightly again — but only if Party leaders fearlessly, honestly and sensibly analyze their mistakes, in full consultation with the rank and file of the Party. Only so can they regain their confidence and committed support, an indispensable requirement for victory.

ALLEGED ATTEMPT ON UDP CANDIDATE'S VEHICLE DISPUTED

Report of 'Terrorist' Action

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 11 Dec 83 pp 1, 16

[Text] Belize City Thursday, December 8:

An unsuccessful terrorist attempt to booby-trap a Ford Sportsvan belonging to UDP candidate Derek Aikman last Wednesday night has revealed a high level of criminal sophistry Police investigators found today.

The wagon, parked on Gabourel Lane on Wednesday night while the owner attended a public discussion at St. Mary's Hall, had been re-wired from underneath the dashboard and panel to produce an electrical charge from the ignition once the motor was started. A tampering with the fuel pump arranged that the gasoline would leak out, once the pump was set in motion, to saturate the motor. The anticipated explosion would destroy the vehicle and imperil the lives of the occupants. Moreover it would look like a real honest-to-goodness accident and the "evidence" would be destroyed by the fire.

Mr. Aikman told the REPORTER today that he drove the wagon home last night without incident, suspecting nothing, although he did note the unusual, strong smell of gasoline. Upon noting the same strong smell this morning, Mr. Aikman said, he decided to check.

This check, witnessed also by the Police, revealed a cluster of small yellow wires with little silver tubes at the ends believed to contain nitro-glycerine. The tubes were clearly marked with the words "Danger Explosive."

The engine of the wagon was also saturated with gasoline from the damaged fuel pump.

Mr. Aikman is only one of nine UDP candidates now competing in the Belize City Council elections. Yet he is the only one singled

out as a terrorist target - not once but three times. The time before all the studs had been removed from all four wheels of his Sportswagon and all but one hub - cap carefully replaced to disguise the sabotage.

Mr. Aikman has distinguished himself by being the first to recognize the value of making a videotape record of the register of voters as a good way to check up on phony registration. After the first day of videotaping the Chief

Elections Officer, Mr. Roy Young, moved to halt any further taping of the records. The move has been challenged in the Supreme Court and on Monday, December 12

the Chief Justice, Mr. George Moe, will begin to hear arguments in the action. Mr. Young has been summoned to give evidence at this hearing.

The case is by far the most important constitutional dispute to come before the Supreme Court and its result is bound to have profound political consequences all 'round.

Editorial Comment

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 11 Dec 83 p 2

[Text]

RECENT ATTEMPTS to sabotage the family wagon of one businessman candidate competing in this week's Belize City Council election should be seen for what they really are - incipient terrorism.

There have been isolated cases of sabotage before at both extremities of the political spectrum, as is indicated by the case of arson which destroyed the Belize Billboard plant on Barrack Road or the fire, deliberately set without a doubt, which destroyed the Income Tax Department on Queen Street, or the Silky Stuart Incident at Courthouse Wharf.

But only the most callous and hardened-minded among us can imagine that it is safe to tamper with terrorism, or even yield to the temptation of controlled violence.

It is the very nature of violence to erupt out of control and to engulf the very people who wanted it or started it.

Belizeans, sitting at the edge of the storms raging in Central America, have no excuse for still believing in violence, for we already know with a certainty that comes from first-hand knowledge, that he who sows the wind will reap the whirlwind.

We have come a long way without violence, and if we keep our balance, we will go the course, make our election commitment and even contemplate a changing of the guard with equanimity. We owe it to ourselves, our family and friends and to our country, not to say or do anything which can chafe away at the fragile strands of the democratic system which we as a people have woven together with such dedication and effort.

This is a task not only for individual men and women, but also for bodies and organizations - our churches, our

judiciary, our administration and our pressure groups.

Any threat of bigotry or sabotage or terrorism against any citizen of this country is a menace to good order and an assault on the peace and tranquility of Belize.

The decent law-abiding citizens of Belize are not asking for much. All they seek is a political system free from duress and fraud which will allow them to exercise their own constitutional rights according to their choice.

It is not too much to expect. In fact, it is the basic minimum.

Police Countercharge

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 18 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Maxwell Samuels, has disputed a report appearing in last week's REPORTER which labelled a reported attack on a Ford Sports van owned by Mr. Derek Aikman as "terrorist" action.

Mr. Samuels expressed his views in an off-the-record statement, referring to the Aikman report of fuel pump tampering and sabotage as, in his words, a "political ploy."

The Aikman report triggered a police investigation during which the police took into their custody a mal-functioning fuel pump and a cluster of small wires rigged to what appeared to be little tubes of explosive material at their extremities.

The Commissioner of Police said he reached his conclusions after Police found no evidence to prove that the fuel pump had been sabotaged. He charged that Mr. Aikman had succeeded in using the Police and the newspaper for his own purposes.

Aikman's mechanic however, when contacted, told the REPORTER that he was convinced that some sort of tampering had taken place on the fuel pump. He agreed that the fuel pump had not been damaged in any way, but insisted that it took some tampering to cause it to become loose enough to spray gasoline over the motor of the van.

Mr. Aikman claims that he had parked his van on Gabourel Lane last week Wednesday night while he attended a discussion forum at St. Mary's Hall. At the end of the meeting he drove his vehicle to his home in Newtown Barracks. He said he attributed the heavy smell of gasoline in the vehicle to the fact that he was transporting a portable generator in the van as a stand-by power source for the Wednesday night meeting.

The following morning he noted the strong smell of gasoline again and on checking, discovered the loose connection on the fuel pump and the strange wires with explosives at the tips.

REPORTER investigations also revealed that during the 1979 general elections campaign a pick-up truck belonging to Mr. Hemsley Jones mysteriously exploded and burned while being driven along the Western Highway with a group of YPF campaigners. No one was hurt in the 1979 incident but the truck was completely destroyed.

CSO: 3298/325

OPPOSITION LEADER ANNOUNCES QUERIES TO BE PUT TO GOVERNMENT

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 18 Dec 83 pp 1, 20

[Text] Hon. Curl Thompson, Leader of the Opposition has given formal notice that he intends to ask a number of questions at the next meeting of the House of Representatives covering electricity, Cuban scholarships and Grenada, as follows:

To the Minister of Energy: Is the Minister prepared to make a statement on the current state of the Belize Electricity Board and the regular outages which have brought Belize City to its economic knees? Also would the Minister please

state what measures have been taken to correct the situation and when regular full - time services will be resumed?

To the Minister of Education: Will the Minister of Education please inform this House of the number of Belizean Students who have been given scholarships or bursaries to study in Cuba? Will he state how many Belizean students are now studying in Cuba and whether he knows of any plans to continue sending Belizean students to Cuba for special education.

To the Prime Minister: Could the Prime Minister state whether, in reply to the Prime Minister of Barbados, when called upon to be involved in the Grenada invasion, he made the under - mentioned statement: "I do not wish to participate for I cannot commit Belize to any military involvement without prior consultation with the United Kingdom."

If this is true, could the Prime Minister kindly explain the meaning of the statement?

PAPER ATTACKS GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AS COMMUNIST-INSPIRED

Belize City THE BEACON in English 27 Dec 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] During the 1970's when Said Musa and Assad Shoman joined the ruling People's United Party and Party Leader George Price seemed so close to them and on an ideological trip with them, government officials over Radio Belize and on various platforms (political and otherwise) spouted rhetoric which undoubtedly was leftist inclined.

In addition to their rhetoric, government rushed through the National Assembly pieces of legislation which were consistent with their communist ideology.

First there was the Aliens Land Holding Ordinance, which severely restricted the amount of land any non-Belizeans could have and also imposed rigorous conditions on those aliens who did hold land. It was widely noted at the time that such a law would only serve to discourage foreign investment.

There was also the Rural Land Tax Ordinance, one of whose aim was to oblige owners of lands in the countryside to develop their plots or face the possibility of losing them.

Thirdly, and most dangerous, was the Land Acquisition Ordinance. Although this Ordinance was inherited from our Colonial masters, it was in the hands of Price's Government that it was implemented as harshly, and against the public good. This piece of legislation empowered the Minister of Lands to take away the land of any person simply by stating that the land being taken away was needed for "public purposes." However, we have witnessed the exercise of this power by the minister in order to victimize persons and to further the cause of nepotism. Put simply, Belizeans known not to be in sympathy with the ruling party have had their lands snatched for "public purposes" which turned out to be the transfer of the land to a loyalist of the ruling party.

There was an outcry in the local press against these laws. The newspapers pointed out that the effects of such laws would be to frighten off potential investors and to cause those already with land holdings in Belize to scale down their operations.

The laws did have these effects.

It is unreasonable to expect that a foreigner will invest in Belize knowing fully well that in addition to the uncertainty inherent in the unresolved Anglo-Guatemalan dispute, their properties could be taken over by the government on the stroke of a minister's pen.

Land is /the/ [in capitals] single largest natural resource which this nation possesses. And we could not agree more that if it is to be exploited, such exploitation must be optimal and in the national interest. However, it must also be taken into account that Belize does not have the capital nor the technology to make all her square miles productive. Therefore, we will need the presence of foreigners who will invest in the development of our lands. But, the legal hurdles set up by the government during the 1970's discourage foreign investment for the development of our prime natural resource.

Because of the Prime Minister's ideological trip and the masquerade to show that Belize was so progressive, revolutionary and non-aligned, many potential investors were scared off--for good. The fallout of Prime Minister Price's escapades in the '70's is the severe economic depression now being experienced by Belize.

Tourism has proved very profitable for many countries, including a number of our Caribbean island-neighbours such as the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas, and others. There are never any doubts in anybody's mind that Belize has many tourist attractions and an impressive potential to make tourism pay.

Nevertheless, ever since they returned to Belize, Musa and Shoman stated repeatedly that tourism was poorism and therefore not good for Belize. Accordingly, except for lip service locally, the Belize Government has done very little nationally and absolutely nothing internationally, to promote tourism for Belize.

So again in the case of tourism the Prime Minister, because of his honeymoon with Musa and Shoman during the '70's let the opportunity to really lift the Belizean economy go by. And thus today we are in the grips of a severe financial crisis and an economic depression.

Despite the gloomy economic prospects for Belize, there is still time for the Prime Minister--who is ultimately the author of Belize's economic plight--to institute urgent action which will make redress for his follies during the 1970's. Although there is time, that time is short. So, Mr. Price had better get into action now.

CSO: 3298/325

BRIEFS

UNION-CORPORATION PACT--A collective agreement was signed last week between the United General Workers' Union and the Development Finance Corporation. An announcement from the Ministry of Labour said the agreement is for a two-year period and provides for increases in fringe benefits and other conditions of work. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Corporation by acting General Manager, Mr Cirilo Mahung, Director Alberto Espot and Secretary Justo Castillo. Signing on behalf of the Union were Mr Oscar Alonzo, Education Director; Mr W Heusner, Chairman, Cayo branch, and Carol Cabral Shop Steward. Acting Labour Commissioner, Mr Raimundo Cuellar, witnessed the signing of the agreement. [Text] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 18 Dec 83 p 6]

PUP COROZAL MEETING--The Corozal North People's United Party Constituency Convention was well attended at Capri Hall on Sunday, Nov. 27, 1983 by delegates from San Pedro, Cristo Rey, Yo Chen, Patchakan, Xaibe, San Andres and Corozal Town. A new Executive Committee was elected to administer the affairs of the People's United Party in the Corozal North Constituency for the 1983 to 1985 period. The officers of the new executive are: Hon V Castillo--Chairman, Mr Basilio Mena--Vice Chairman, Rodney Moguel--Secretary, Eduardo Villamil--Asst. Secretary, Evelio Ake--Treasurer, Pedro Villanueva, Youth Organiser, Ernesto Murray--Chairman, Social Committee, Simeon Botes--Chairman, Education Committee, Idelfonso Gomez--Chairman, Campaign Committee. Hon Florencio Marin Minister of Natural Resources and acting General Secretary of the People's United Party was guest speaker. Also addressing the convention was the Hon Fred Hunter, Minister of Works and the Third Vice Chairman of the People's United Party National Executive. [Text] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 11 Dec 83 p 2]

END TO SUGAR STRIKE--Libertad, Tues. Dec 6 After a week of protests, strikes, and sporadic outbursts of vandalism against BSI properties, workmen at both Libertad and Tower Hill sugar factories yesterday morning returned to work in full force. At a meeting held on Saturday morning last, BSI company and BWU officials tentatively agreed to have a go at the object of contention--a restructuring of a section of the factory which would reduce the work force in this particular section. Those removed from the section would be relocated elsewhere in the factory according to company officials. One point in the agreement is that a trial period would be undertaken by the reduced work force. In the event of failure to achieve positive

results from these stations alternatives would be suggested by both management and union. Grinding operations began today and full deliveries of cane are expected to commence tomorrow, Wednesday. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 9 Dec 83 pp 1, 12]

CSO: 3298/326

OPPOSITION LEADER NAMED; NEW 'BALANCE' HAILED

Nod to Stoutt

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 3 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

Acting under Section 33 (2) of the Virgin Islands (Constitution) Order, 1976, His Excellency the Governor appointed the Honourable Hamilton Lavity Stoutt as Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council of the Virgin Islands.

His Excellency was acting on the recommendation of the majority of the elected Members of the Council

who are members of the Opposition Party in the Council.

This is the second time that the Honourable H.L. Stoutt will serve as Leader of the Opposition, the first being the period 1971-75. Mr. Stoutt has also served as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister in previous administrations.

Fear of Excessive Government Power

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 3 Dec 83 p 15

[Editorial]

[Text]

It is clear to be seen why so many people favour the present set-up of the Legislative Council and Government, which is the result of the recent general elections. In the set-up of the previous (Ninth) Legislative Council, it was all Government with hardly any voice of an Opposition. In the present Council there appears to be an appreciable balance between the Government Bench and that of the Opposition, and it is expected that the Opposition will keep the people knowledgeable on important matters which come before that body. Of course, this lack was through no fault of the previous Government, but it did give the Government a greater power than is envisaged under a parliamentary system in which the minority (Opposition) plays a very important role.

As the present set up is now, it is a foregone conclusion that the voice of the minority (Opposition) will be heard

in no uncertain way, and the Government will not have an easy or unchallenged pathway in its operations and, on the whole, the Government will be subject to elective scrutiny and public exposure whenever such an occasion warrants. At least, we so hope, which did not exist before. It can be said that many serious-minded people in the BVI felt that the Government of that time wheeled too much power. It seems to us that this sentiment on the part of the voters was largely responsible for the change in Government.

Let us put aside as an unreasonable view that the previous Government was unproductive. It is just the opposite as can be seen in most places, and public prosperity was not lacking, for the most part. What overshadowed the development push was a fear among many people over the power structure of the Government and to where it might have lead. This may have brought to mind the old saying, "Too much power corrupts."

Right or wrong, it appears that this sentiment of "Too much power" in the Government was at the root of the results of the general elections which brought about the change in Government.

CSO: 3298/327

NEW ECONOMIC PROGRAM SEEN AS INEFFECTIVE STOPGAP MEASURE

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 16 Dec 83 p 14-A

[Editorial: "Stabilization Versus Revival"]

[Text] Almost from the outset, the government of the republic informed the country of its decision to increase taxes and public utility rates under an emergency plan to stabilize the economy. The problem at that time consisted in the enormous difference between the income and the expenditure of the state, and taxes, rather than the reduction of expenditures, were chosen as the means to finance it. It was a generalized and harsh sacrifice that the citizenry accepted in hopes that the balance attained would be maintained, and that the recovery of the economy would start in 1984. Now, however, 1 1/2 years later, we are as in the beginning--the fiscal imbalance is even bigger, and the government has announced to the country a new "emergency program."

The new emergency plan, as it was originally outlined, included some measures to reduce expenses that we considered appropriate and supported in our editorial of Sunday, 11 December. Among them, we underscored the measures to trim the budget by an amount that we expect will exceed 10 percent, and the freezing of jobs not only in the central government, but also in the private sector.

Unfortunately, it was subsequently announced that the overall deficit for the public sector now estimated for 1984 is in excess of 14 billion colons, and that the announced trimming will fall far short of making up for the shortage. The administration then proposed that a surcharge of up to 15 percent be levied on business profits, which once more raises the tax rate ceiling to 65 percent, one of the highest in the world.

With a tax ceiling of 65 percent and a deficit that tends to boost interest rates, it does not seem possible that the economy can be revived. Interest rates that are too high in real terms discourage investment, and an excessive tax on the net earnings of businesses decapitalizes them; there is then very little left for reinvestment. Those aspects of the new emergency program are totally incompatible with economic revival.

Besides the incompatibility of the taxes and the economic revival, we have noted serious incongruities among the economic policies of the various ministries. While some officials advocate moderation in wage policy, others propound increases in excess of inflation; while the drafters of the emergency program call for a higher tax on business profits, as indicated, Dr Mario Carvajal, the export minister, asserts that it will be reduced to 30 percent. Meanwhile, the investor does not know what to expect in the line of taxes for next year and beyond.

Conceived in that fashion, the emergency program turns out to be far from what the country needs. The IMF itself seems to consider that his program is insufficient to meet the minimum requirements of a stabilization plan, and that the Costa Rican Government has not made enough efforts to solve the economic problems. The crisis will be overcome only by a very substantial reform of the whole economic and productive structure, starting with the state and its institutions. A new program based on taxes, with rather timid cutbacks in expenditures, can only serve to maintain the status quo in the near term, and worsen the situation in the future.

8414

CSO: 3248/278

MODEL FARM PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES MAKING NO PROGRESS

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 5 Dec 83 p 10-A

[Article by Elberth F. Duran H.]

[Text] What is termed the ultimate and productive solution to aid the refugees in the country, the model farms, seems to be belied by the results currently being obtained at the Los Angeles agricultural settlement located 50 kilometers northwest of Liberia, in Guanacaste.

Some 300 Salvadorans have lived in that place for 3 years. It has a productive urban infrastructure whose total cost exceeds \$3 million, but most of the land and a large number of lodgings, homes and other structures remain unused and unproductive. Other installations are completely abandoned.

That community recently asked the government of the republic and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (ACNUR), to be relocated away from the Nicaraguan border for fear of an eventual armed attack from that country. They also mentioned the possibility that the encounters between the Nicaraguan army and the insurgents that operate near the national territory could spread to the place.

The executive power turned down the request.

On the other hand, Gonzalo Blanco Pereira, the manager of the Los Angeles model farm, asserted with regard to the deserted look of the installations that "the people do not cooperate with the project, but rather boycott it; they do not work or allow work to be done, and they claim that they are not paid wages."

Apathy

At first sight, the complacency and apathy are evinced by the underbrush surrounding the dwellings. The result of that attitude is that only a few plots have been planted with legumes and vegetables in the 194-hectare farm where the settlement is located, midway between the towns of Dos Rios and Quebrada Grande.

Taking a tour of the farm, one can observe that there are six buildings with seven compartments each intended for the raising of chickens for food and the

production of eggs, of which only two compartments are being used. Moreover, conditions in those two compartments are inadequate, and the fowls are crowded. There is also lack of help and trash all around, with the resultant hazard for the birds.

A total of 30 dwellings suitably fitted for family habitation remain unoccupied and devoid of any kind of attention.

With regard to some of those conditions, project officials warned of the existence of a "negative influence of an organization known as the Refugee Coordinator, which reportedly is opposed to the settlement program." "It rather," added an informant, "urges them to ignore the opportunities and resources that are going to waste here. Moreover, it has even scared those who decided to work the land, thus ultimately creating a climate of uncertainty and uneasiness that is detrimental to the center." That influence is pointed out as a cause of the unproductivity and instability displayed by the refugees.

Options

According to the ACNUR's and the government's plans, the best option to take care of the refugees is the durable projects of the establishment of farms or other productive agrarian undertakings. Therefore, the Los Angeles project is an example of the goal being sought. In it, the refugees will manage to become independent of the material aid they are provided with from the time of their arrival in the country. With the allocation of dwellings, lands, installations and financing, the cultivation of state lands would eventually lead to food self-sufficiency in the refugee agrarian settlements.

However, the latest indications of the results at the Los Angeles project do not favor such expectations. "Despite the fact that we insist on the need that they decide to work for their own benefit, the refugees here remain as dependent as before, or more so," the project agronomist, Antonio Ugalde, said. "Paradoxically," he added, "it takes very few people to get a good production on a farm as good as this one."

On the other hand, as long as the mistakes are not corrected, and the attitude of the refugees and the performance of the personnel in charge of the project change, the executive power presumably will not make a decision as to whether other such projects with Nicaraguan refugees will be set up on the Atlantic seaboard or the south of the country. Some of the 2,400 refugees living in Tilaran and Limon would be settled there.

Neither has there been any decision about the integrated projects in which Costa Ricans would be included. This is so, according to Phillip Sargisson the ACNUR director in our country, "because the Costa Rican state will have to defray the expenses of the nationals inasmuch as the organization's statutes do not allow it to provide for any other than foreign refugees."

Majority

Of the nearly 20,000 refugees in the country, approximately 10,000 are Salvadorans, some 6,000 are Nicaraguans, and the rest are of other nationalities, but the majority of them are of peasant extraction. Therefore, the solutions that are being sought must conform to that fact. That is why the results of the first attempt, the Los Angeles farm, are so important for the making of future decision.

Miguel Roig Sanabria, the director of the national refugee program of the Joint Institute for Social Aid (IMAS), stated another reason for the difficulties facing the project. "Productivity has not yet been attained, nor profitability, because there have been administrative problems in the past," he emphasized.

Anyway, in light of the continuous arrival of Nicaraguans across the northern border, a decision about this and other agrarian projects should be expected in the near future. Rather unfavorable results can be assured if present conditions persist, and if they are changed, their usefulness will depend on what the modifications will be.

8414

CS0: 3248/278

LACK OF INTEREST IN, APPRECIATION FOR NEWS MEDIA DISCUSSED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 17 Nov 83 No 46 pp 24-27

[Article by Joel Vilarino: "The Use of the Press"]

[Text] Whenever I see one of the copies of our newspapers and magazines, full of information and interesting and valuable subject matter, the same questions come to mind: Are we making good use of the press? Are we using it properly or are we underusing it? And the answer which I give myself never changes: No, we are underusing it; we are not utilizing it to the full extent possible and necessary.

I am not making any absolute statement here. The same thing does not always happen everywhere. But in many places--what are we doing with the press? What are you doing, what am I doing, what is the other person doing? The usual: Individual reading of events without any objective other than to be more or less informed (sometimes even about the most superfluous things). The conventional thing to do also is to cut the papers up for posting on the wall, without any attempt at esthetic patterns, on occasion with a great degree of formalism. In both cases, spontaneity usually prevails and takes away from full utilization.

Directed reading and group reading, with comments, precisely constitute two of the most effective ways to make more use of the press but they are hardly ever employed. The press file is encountered with a certain degree of frequency but in quite a few places it is conspicuous by its absence and where it does exist it is sometimes incomplete or it is almost never used and is located in a place that is difficult to reach.

The file of categorized press materials is a rarity because it is so tiny; it can be found only in a few places and in more than one case it is used practically not at all.

The press display windows are not only few in number but usually the items are way outdated, without doing anybody any good, because they are replaced very little or only too late, because they are poorly placed or simply because many of the spaces remain blank. Finally, looking at another use, we must add the fact that we pay very little attention in many places to radio and television.

"But there is a little bit of everything for everybody," as the old refrain goes. Nevertheless, our attitude toward the press in the majority of cases is quite contradictory. But many people would at first sight say that we do have the highest appreciation for it.

As a matter of fact, when there is no newspaper or when it comes late or when newspapers are not distributed in time or when they are poorly distributed, then we all protest and criticize. The same thing happens when, with or without good reason, the budget funds allocated for the press run out ahead of time. In that case we try to manage as best we can, we ask for more money and we try to work out solutions.

But when we have it in hand, day after day, year after year, we do not display the same readiness and we do not get full use out of it, in other words, we simply underuse it.

Our "high esteem" for the press comes to light in a likewise fleeting manner in conjunction with another two moments. That happens in case of the laborious and always last-minute search for some material that would be of use to us for example when a particular date comes and we have to prepare a speech, a project for the wall display case, an address, or something like that.

How much would we then give for the periodical or the magazine which "carries that!"

The other moment, no less frequent but equally passing, involves the study of speeches. We all know that, as the speeches of our Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro and of other top leaders come out, we are always directed to study them. But even so, there are many of us who do not realize that and who do not keep the corresponding publications. (In this connection it must be said that the "remedy" employed in some of these cases is not to distribute the press; instead, all of it or almost of it is held back "for when the moment comes" instead of distributing it for its immediate use, making provisions and issuing guidelines for its proper filing at the proper time.)

So far I have been talking only about those who, for better or worse, in one way or another, are interested in the press although insufficiently at that. But I am not forgetting that there are also those who are never interested in it and who look at the press only occasionally. Two examples come to mind.

At one time I happened to be checking on a unit when, around 8 p.m., I went to the club's television set to watch the national television news. The place was full of comrades, mostly officers, and made a good impression. Everybody made use of the last few minutes of the Adventure Program at 1930. But, to my astonishment, the moment the recreation program was over and the news appeared on the screen, many simply left.

Puzzled, I inquired whether this was something accidental (perhaps they had a night-time duty assignment, perhaps the men were tired, etc.); no, that was something customary in that place.

The other example has to do with a more common and current feature of our life. It has to do with the surveys we conduct with a certain degree of frequency among the fightingmen in our units to determine how well they are informed on domestic and international current affairs. Only on rare occasions do we encounter comrades who do not at least have a minimum level of information.

Of course, not everything that comes to mind here is bad. My memory still harbors the image of Marcos, one of our most intelligent and active political workers, holding the periodical or magazine in his hands, meeting almost daily with groups of comrades, talking to them about what had been published there, about its general importance and about its particular importance to them.

I often recall Lieutenant Colonel Cabrera, one of our young propagandists, pleasantly surprising his audience with the magnificent information package he presented in one of his lectures; when he was questioned by his listeners about the origin of all that information, he told them in reply with complete honesty that he had taken it completely from the daily press. The comrade simply always and in a carefully organized manner kept a file of press materials under various categorized headings.

Finally, in order not to turn this into a list of anecdotes, I recall one of our party nuclei which followed the saying that "we cannot afford to have a single militant who does not procure and read the press daily"; that nucleus appointed one of its members as an activist charged with daily seeing to the procurement and reading of the press by all comrades in the organization.

Why, nevertheless, do we make such poor use of the press in so many places? One can understand that the public at large cannot and does not have to be a specialist in making optimum use of the press, nor is it the duty of the public to do so. But the political cadre, yes; the propagandist, the leader of a party organization or the UJC [Union of Young Communists], the educator, the agitator, the lecturer, the activist, and the militant, yes.

Anybody who has to develop revolutionary consciousness in depth and expand it, yes. We are not always aware of that and this is why we are not doing enough in working with the press which--I must say this with emphasis--does not end but rather begins when we receive and distribute it!

If we belong to one of these categories of persons, then we are not allowed to adopt an attitude toward the press which is the same as that assumed toward the ordinary individual. We must therefore tackle this effort on the basis of different premises and unavoidable considerations. I would like to list three of them which appear to be fundamental to me:

1. The Second Party Congress with absolute clarity established that "ideological work today occupies the first line of combat, the first revolutionary trench for all revolutionaries." And in a likewise express manner it outlined the requirement that every communist must be a permanent propagandist of the party's ideas and policy.

How are we properly to discharge this high responsibility without using the press with true effectiveness as a first-hand instrument which the party makes available to us for this purpose? The press, we must realize, is the most common, daily, obtainable, useful, living, and easy instrument we have available every day to do our ideological work.

2. The press does not simply fall from the sky. The material and labor resources which the country, the party, and the state invest in it are really considerable. An army of newsmen, photographers, draftsmen, technicians, management personnel, skilled workers, clerical employees, miscellaneous laborers, and highly-skilled professional individuals day after day, night after night works hard to put it together and distribute it throughout the land.

Huge financial resources and miscellaneous means, equipment, and expensive machinery are used for this effort, ranging from photographic cameras all the way to trucks, buses, and aircraft; from paper--of which there is a worldwide shortage--all the way to the television and radio stations; from the most diverse chemical products all the way to the newsstands.

Every day, every week, and every month, dozens of periodical publications are being published in the country, in millions of copies, not counting the expensive radio and television broadcasts and those that are purchased from other countries. Does not all of this constitute evidence of the importance of the press? Why, for what, and for whom are this investment and this effort being made? Does this not, at least morally, obligate us to do everything we can to get the most out of the press?

3. What the press offers us daily is not little but rather much and it is useful; nevertheless, we do not make proper use of it and we therefore lose it. What does it offer us? The list would be endless. By way of example let us take only some current items from two of our publications: The periodical GRANMA and the magazine VERDE OLIVO.

GRANMA has, without interruption, given us a tremendous volume of extremely valuable information about the capitalist economic crisis; on its page 2 it assiduously publishes materials of a theoretical-ideological and historical character that are of great interest; every week likewise, in the same space, it reflects important aspects concerning defense; frequently it brings us things of lasting value in its "five questions" section; above all during the year's final months and during the first few months of the next year, its pages bring us formidable reports on the accomplishment of the country's economic and social development plans, as a reflection of the successes achieved in socialist construction in Cuba; it guides us during every important moment through its editorial articles, it gives us the direct orders from the party through the text of its resolutions, from the state through its laws, from the government through its decisions; it tells us what the imperialist enemy does every day and what the international situation is.

VERDE OLIVO, on the other hand, follows a similar line although it is even closer to the direct interests of our Revolutionary Armed Forces; in its

editorials, it outlines for us the road to follow in one or another direction in our military and political-military activities, such as those that were recently published on the start of the training period and about savings; it gives us its sure view of one or the other international problem through various articles; with great assiduousness, it offers us really useful help in our daily work through the publication of a series of materials, such as those devoted to young officers, to leadership work, to military pedagogy and psychology, support for Marxist-Leninist and political training, savings, and many other things.

To give just two final examples, several months ago, in large series, it published graphic and informative reports on each of the 15 republics of the USSR on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the great socialist state. The assembly of all of these articles was helpful in putting together a magnificent commemorative exhibit which I was able to see for myself in several units. Now, on the basis of this experience and as part of the activities for the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution, it is publishing articles on each of our provinces in its supplements.

Is this little or is it much? How useful can all this be in our propaganda and agitation activities? But there is more.

The press is also invaluable as a means for the illustration and updating of study textbooks, manuals, works of the classical authors of Marxism-Leninism, essays, and various theoretical materials, especially those dealing with the social sciences and other branches, not excluding the field of military affairs, through its reports and fresh, "last-minute" information.

Does not the biogas, obtained from the excrements of animals--which, in the fight to save petroleum, is beginning to illuminate our cattle ranches--illustrate, with an example taken from the Cuba of today, the philosophical problem of the indestructibility and transformation of matter, as was suggested to me recently by the reading of an article in the magazine BOHEMIA? And did not the makeup and deployment of the Yankee armed forces abroad, as recently presented by one of our periodicals, help us in explaining problems of political-military geography?

For many of us, the obligation, the duty, and the convenience of making good use of the press go far beyond individual reading intended to keep us informed. We must review the press daily with this approach: What can be useful to me in this periodical or magazine for my work?

If we do that, then we will undoubtedly find useful things there: The propagandist, the lecturer, the teacher, the director of Marxist-Leninist and political training, the committee spokesman, the agitator, the wall newspaper activist, the instructor for the nucleus or the base committee, the person in charge of the cultural commission and the Lenin-Marti room council, the methodology expert, the fellow who has to prepare a speech, and many others.

The political cadre, in particular, the propagandist, must daily go through the press in order to determine "what does this issue bring that I must not allow the fightingmen to fail to read or that might be useful for them to read and whose reading I therefore must require? What must I expressly designate for collection or filing? What instructions must I give to the activists, agitators, etc., regarding one or the other article that is being published here?"

We must not forget that the press file and the file of press materials categorized by topics are too valuable treasuries if they are permanently organized, if they are linked in terms of their utilization to the execution of Marxist-Leninist and political training programs, to the content of propaganda activities through lectures, agitation and culture work, teaching in party schools and military schools, the history commissions, the Lenin-Marti room councils, graphic propaganda, direct leadership activities.

If any arguments are still needed to emphasize the need for working more or less toward optimum utilization of the press, we might even go back into history.

What attitude did the communists always adopt throughout the world in relation to the press? What attitude did the bourgeois maintain and what attitude do they now maintain regarding it? Was and is this for them only big business or is it also a primordial instrument for the promotion and advancement of their ideas and their class interests? Did they not and do they not devote enormous material and human resources to that?

Through their lives, did not Marx, Engels, and Lenin assign fundamental importance to it, making maximum use of it? Did not Lenin create ISKRA to make the Russian revolution? Did he not assign to it the very highest mission of making it the first educator and organizer of the popular masses in the gigantic effort to defend and build socialism?

But we can go a little bit further than that. Marti founded and published PATRIA to make the revolution of independence. Maceo, in the midst of the war, and as a weapon of war, founded EL CUBANO LIBRE. Fidel, Che, and Raul founded written press and radio organs during the war against the tyranny.

The old Cuban communists created and maintained their press organs even under the difficult conditions of underground operations in which they had to work for many years. The party extraordinarily developed the press ever since the triumph of the revolution.

Now we must ask ourselves: Why and what for? What is the importance of the press that those outstanding men in history, so deeply involved in gigantic undertakings, should always and without fail devote so much effort and attention to it?

The answer, the conclusions, and the next step are up to the reader.

CHARLES ASSAILS GUYANA'S HANDLING OF TRADE ARRANGEMENTS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 8 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] ROSEAU, Dominica, Wednesday, (CANA) — Dominica has renewed its call for the exclusion of Guyana from the 13-member Caribbean Community (Caricom) saying it did not believe such a move would result in the break up of the 10-year-old regional integration movement.

"I don't think that the other countries would leave if Guyana leaves, but I am saying this is how I feel about it," Prime Minister Eugenia Charles told reporters here during a 35-minute radio interview on Monday night.

Dominica and Guyana have been at loggerheads since Miss Charles, as Chairman of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), played a key role in the October 25 U.S.-led invasion of Grenada to topple a leftwing military junta which had seized power in a bloody coup.

Guyana, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago and the Bahamas opposed the intervention and President Forbes Burnham has bitterly attacked the states involved, both at home and in international fora.

In addition, Miss Charles has accused Guyana of selling a quantity of rice originally destined for Roseau to Trinidad and cancelling other orders under an exchange agreement in which Dominica would have supplied Guyana with soap. Burnham has denied the

charge, saying Dominica refused to sign the agreement despite repeated requests for it to do so.

Miss Charles said Dominica wanted the Caricom Secretariat shifted from Georgetown to a "more central location" arguing that many people no longer wanted to work out of Guyana.

"It is very difficult to get people to go and work in Guyana now. Many people don't want to work there," she said, suggesting that the secretariat be re-located in either St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda or Barbados.

The Caricom rules do not provide for the expulsion of a member state, but Miss Charles indicated that before yearend Caribbean leaders might decide on whether to amend the rules.

"It was brought up at the last Caricom meeting that we had I think there will be further discussions during the course of the coming year on that....", she said.

"This is how the treaty is and this is why we have been saying long before the Grenada affair that the treaty must be rescheduled," Miss Charles added.

The Dominica Prime Minister said she has not as yet had any discussions with other Caribbean leaders on the expulsion of Guyana. However, she said: "I think after the Grenada episode and all the things attached to it

and the fact that he (Burnham) could be so rude as he would decide trade matters in Caricom.... I think therefore there can be no chance of talking to him...."

"That's how I think personally, I don't know if the other countries think that way," said Miss Charles.

Miss Charles refuted a claim by President Burnham that Guyana had not cancelled an agreement between the two states for Guyana to exchange its rice for soap from Roseau.

She said that Dominica was awaiting the arrival here of a mission from Guyana to discuss the issue.

"In the meantime we did ship the soap.... but Burnham's country cancelled two orders of soap that were outstanding," she said, pointing out that although the rice from Guyana was expensive, Dominica was prepared to buy it because of the Caricom arrangements.

"It isn't Grenada they did not like, Burnham just did not like the fact that he could not dictate to Caribbean countries anymore. We are all independent and we could do our own thing without him," said Miss Charles.

The Prime Minister defended the OECS — American "rescue of Grenada" and said she did not believe the Americans wanted to have a military presence in the region.

CHARLES DISCUSSES OECS FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATIONS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 13 Dec 83 p 12

[Article by Peter Richards]

[Text]

ROSEAU, Dominica, Monday (CAN) — Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles today said there is a need for "meaningful" foreign exchange currency regulations within the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Addressing the annual general meeting of the National Commercial Bank of Dominica Miss Charles who is Dominica's Finance Minister said "it is a matter for concern that the external reserves of the Central Bank (Eastern Caribbean Central Bank) have been dwindling within the past year."

"If this trend is not arrested our commercial banks may soon experience difficulty in providing an adequate supply of foreign exchange for the use of the business sector."

Miss Charles told the meeting "it is therefore of critical importance that we review as quickly as possible the administration of foreign exchange in the (sub) region if we are not to find ourselves very quickly in the unenviable position of some of our neighbours, without the foreign exchange to purchase bare necessities for the survival and welfare of our people."

"We need to put in place as a matter of urgency meaningful exchange control regulations to monitor the inflow and the use of

foreign exchange, she said

"We are aware very much aware that a number of business firms do not comply with the requirement for the repatriation of foreign exchange" she said, adding "we are aware that some local firms hold or invest substantial sums in foreign currency abroad, thereby enriching the coffers of wealthier nations and providing jobs for the already privileged workers, in metropolitan countries."

Miss Charles said that already Dominica had moved towards monitoring the flow of currency here. In this regard the Central Bank of Barbados had trained Dominicans "in the policies and procedures for effective management in this area."

"We do not intend to impose undue restrictions on the flow of money but we feel that we must inform ourselves and have some influence and control on such vital issue. This we will do in co-ordination with the other territories and through the Central Bank," she said.

Miss Charles viewed the establishment of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank which came into effect October this year as being "timely at this stage of our development" but warned that the Bank could only succeed in its performance if there is common acceptance of the objectives to be achieved on the part of the participating countries.

"It is not enough to set up an institution if there is not the intention and the will to make it work. The establishment of the Central Bank by itself will be of little significance if we are not committed to give it the fullest support and co-operation", she said.

According to the annual report released today the National Commercial Bank (NCB) ended the financial year, 1982-1983, with mixed fortunes with pre-tax earnings and net profits showing a decline of 17.01 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively over the last year.

Last financial year the bank recorded pre-tax earnings of EC\$526 471 (one EC dollar — 37 cents U.S.) as compared with EC\$436 926 this year. The net profits dropped from EC\$401 177 to EC\$390 251.

In its outlook for 1983-84 the bank said it hopes to assist in the housing sector through long term deposits. We are aware that a dire need exists for this type of financing," the report said.

The bank also said it wished to assist the agricultural and manufacturing sectors it said that "in general the outlook for the bank appears to be encouraging."

In her address Miss Charles said that it was important that the NCB's banking policies are consistent with the imperatives for development in Dominica.

BRIEFS

DOMLEC TAKEOVER--Roseau, Dominica, Wednesday, (CANA)--The Dominica Government now owns the island's electricity service following the free transfer of the 51 per cent shareholding of Britain's Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC). Dominica had previously owned 49 per cent of the shares in the Dominica Electricity Services Limited (DOMLEC). Prime Minister Eugenia Charles told reporters that the CDC transfer of shares had been "absolutely free." The agreement for Dominica's takeover of DOMLEC was signed over the weekend. A Government statement yesterday quoted John Taylor CDC's representative for the Leeward and Windward Islands as saying the move was "an evolutionary change." He said that CDC was not severing its relationship with Dominica since it intended to be involved in DOMLEC in other ways. Miss Charles said that a new board of directors for the company would be announced today and CDC will be given the right to nominate a member. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 8 Dec 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/346

LEADERS CONCENTRATE ON NEW THREAT TO NATION, CARICOM

Burnham Remarks in India

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 83 pp 1, 5

[Article by Kamini Persaud]

[Text] New Delhi, [GNA]--The Commonwealth Heads-of-Government meeting, now in its third day in New Delhi, is turning out to be very much a Caribbean affair.

Although Commonwealth leaders yesterday morning began discussing global economic trends and the much talked about study on money and finance, "Towards a New Bretton Woods", the highlights of the day's proceedings were press conferences by President Forbes Burnham of Guyana and Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles of Dominica.

The press conferences, held within minutes of each other, focused primarily on issues such as the Grenada-Cuba connection and the alleged threat by Grenada to neighbouring Caribbean states, the alleged "leaking" of information about the invasion to Cuba, the Grenadian "welcome" for the invading American troops, the future of the Caribbean integration movement and the alleged severing of trading links between Dominica and Guyana.

An unapologetic Miss Charles who said she would participate again in an invasion such as that of Grenada, given the same circumstances, was also asked to give her views on the likelihood of uncontrolled American presence in the Caribbean now that they have been invited by regional states.

"I am quite sure that this fear that the whole world has of a great mighty America taking us over and submerging us is completely unfounded", Miss Charles told reporters.

Threatened

Meanwhile, Cde. Burnham who is yet to speak on Grenada in the summit sessions (Miss Charles spoke Thursday) lamented that Dominica and the other "invading" Caribbean states were "trying to sell an unsaleable story...to justify the re-entry of colonialism and imperialism in the Caribbean on invitation."

Asked whether Guyana felt threatened in the wake of the events in Grenada, Cde. Burnham explained that any country whose macroeconomic policies did not get with the American concept of what it should be is threatened.

He dismissed as "idle dreaming" the fears expressed by some Caribbean leaders about a supposed arms build-up in Grenada.

"AK 47s are not invasion weapons", and "revolution is not exportable--revolution is an indigenous thing", Cde. Burnham explained.

He categorically denied having informed Cuba about the imminent invasion of Grenada. It was not until after the October 25 invasion that, at the request of the Cuban government, the Guyana Foreign Ministry had been in contact with the Cuban Ambassador in Guyana about the situation in Grenada, he explained.

He drew reporters' attention to a statement by Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga, in which he revealed that the information had inadvertently been leaked by one of the states which participated in the invasion.

On the Grenadian "welcome" for American troops, Cde. Burnham referred to 1953 in Guyana when the British troops moved in, removed the government and suspended the constitution.

The British troops, he said, were welcomed by many, and the 100 million dollars spent to win the loyalty of the people readily absorbed. He noted however, that the 1957 elections "saw the return of the same so-called political criminals, Jagan and Burnham."

Unanimity

He dismissed as "absolute nonsense and tommyrot", the possibility of changes in the Treaty of Chaguaramas by some member states to include some human rights clauses.

Any such decision would require unanimity, and "I know of at least four votes which will not go with such nonsense", Cde. Burnham said.

The Guyana leader agreed that Caribbean participation in the invasion of Grenada had caused a rift in the Caribbean integration movement, but he expressed the hope that once the dust has settled some normalcy would be restored.

On this issue, the Dominican Prime Minister at her press conference referred to an earlier trade impasse resulting from the introduction of a two-tiered exchange system by Jamaica, and said Caribbean people have a way of disagreeing and later getting together again.

She ruled out the possibility of an early Caricom Heads-of-Government meeting to discuss the recent developments in Grenada, saying that it was better to wait for some while and see what happens.

On the alleged trading difficulties, Miss Charles said Guyana had held back a shipment of rice for Dominica, refusing to trade with that country after the invasion of Grenada.

But President Burnham explained that Dominica had refused to sign the necessary trade agreement regarding Guyana's rice and Dominica's soap despite repeated requests from Guyana. The rice, he said, was subsequently sold to Trinidad and Tobago at a much better price.

He said the complaint by Dominica alleging political motivation should be forwarded to the Caricom Council of Ministers.

Era of 'Undeclared War'

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] East Berbice: [GNA]--The present era is one of undeclared wars and Guyana must be alert and prepared for any eventuality Acting President Ptolemy Reid told residents on the Corentyne, Thursday.

The time has come he said, when every citizen must be a soldier in order to defend the gains of the Guyanese revolution.

Cde Reid was at the time speaking at the Number 48 Government School, Corentyne at a "Face-the-Community" meeting. Among the matters he dealt with were the Grenada invasion and the need for national unity and preparedness.

Cde Reid, now performing the duties of President in Cde Forbes Burnham's absence, told the packed school hall it was disunity that killed the revolution in Grenada.

"We have learnt this from our own lesson in the 1763 Berbice Slave Rebellion and the suspension of our Constitution in 1953. Let us not make this mistake again. We must be alert and must have a common stand and a common ground," he added.

Undeclared wars he noted have been responsible for the deaths of millions of people through famine and starvation.

Cde Reid was accompanied by Regional Chairman Surujnarine Singh who explained some of the Region's plans for the development of agriculture in Region Six.

Challenge to Caribbean Culture

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 27 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] WHILE THE REGION rejoiced at the US invasion and the Caribbean Conference of Churches reeled under the welter of abuse generated

by its condemnation of it, the last rites for the dream of a New Caribbean Man passed unnoticed.

The general reaction of approval of the US invasion of Grenada underlines an uncomfortable truth, namely that the West Indies, in its institutions and many of its people, has become uncomfortable with anything un-American.

Bishop's regime was admired by a wide range of West Indians because Bishop was not a stooge, gave Grenadians a sense of dignity and was his own man.

This admiration was grudgingly shared by a number of the West Indian leaders who eventually called for the invasion, if their reaction to his death was a true indication of their feelings.

The flaw in the support was that the Americans implacably opposed the regime, thus giving rise to the discomfort.

The fact of US disapproval alone, regardless of whether or not it was justified, posed a serious problem for many West Indians - especially West Indian churchmen - though it may not have been articulated in such terms.

We in Guyana, because of our media isolation and restricted travel, are less aware than most of the extent to which the search for a New Caribbean Man has been called off in the region.

Too many West Indians have family in North America and have made regular trips there themselves for the attractions of those societies - superficial though they may be - to be shaken by visions of an alternative Caribbean life-style.

Video-recorders are no longer status symbols, having lost that place to the home computer in much of the Caribbean.

Even those lower down the economic ladder associate themselves with these things as a life-style to which they would like to become accustomed.

With the cable and the dish bringing the US into the Carib-

bean home in living colour and direct dialling lessening the distance between the folks in the States, the chances of survival of a life-style with the hallmarks of self-sufficiency and import-substitution were getting slimmer by the day.

Guyanese have largely missed out because the US life-style has not been allowed to impinge here. This is ironic since the present regime is itself the result of US intervention in the Guyanese political process to get rid of a left-wing government.

Destroying the Caribbean man locally has been achieved by the imposition of PNC culture. While the Caribbean islands have the material trappings of US culture, Guyana is simply ceasing to belong to the twentieth century.

If any genuinely Caribbean cultural values or identity were to survive in the face of such odds, every effort would have to be made to strengthen popular participation, keep out of the way of the super-powers and make a little space in the sun.

The challenge proved too great for the New Jewel Movement and ended in a horrifying blood-letting.

Whereas the Manleys and the Barrows lost a battle, the higher stakes invested by the NJM led to their losing the entire war.

Inviting the American troops to apply the coup de grace in person was a logical step for the regional politicians accustomed to inviting them to subdue the region economically and culturally.

Christians have a belief in the diaspora, the ultimate coming together of a scattered people. It is a concept which anyone with a belief in the Caribbean Man will find valuable to cultivate in the years of exile which have now begun.

Reid on Imperialist Machinations

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 27 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] General Secretary of the People's National Congress and Prime Minister, Cde Ptolemy Ried, has said that those who once ruled us are trying to rule us again by way of an undeclared war.

During a discourse with Berbicians at the Number 48 Primary School, Corentyne during a part of the one-week live-in mobilisation exercise organised by the Party, Cde Reid added that the time has come for every citizen to become a soldier to safeguard the rich heritage our forefathers left us.

He said the imperialists are now using food as a weapon to thwart the orderly development of our nation. They first used finance as a weapon, and Guyanese must now understand the importance of eating what we produce, he added.

When government stopped importing wheat flour some time ago there were those who thought the nation would starve. Today, thousands are living without wheat flour, he said. Cde Reid added that by not importing wheat flour government is now able to divert some \$35 million to other areas of development.

"War is on our doorsteps and we must be organised and prepared for any eventuality regardless of our individual ages", he said.

The invasion of Grenada came about because of disunity in the ranks of the Grenadians and that experience should be a lesson to all Guyanese, Cde Reid said. Cde Reid spoke of the achievements of the Grenadian revolution and said the construction of the airport was an arduous task in which seven hills had to be flattened and some 10 000 feet of rough hilly runaway, levelled.

Governments before the Bishop administration never undertook this herculean task because they felt it could not be done. The People's Revolutionary Government, under Bishop proved to the world that his administration was for development, progress and justice for all Grenadians, Cde Reid added.

Hoyte on CARICOM Unity

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 27 Nov 83 p 2

[Text] Central Committee Member and Vice President, Production, Cde. Desmond Hoyte, has stressed the need for unity within the Caribbean Community and emphasised that disunity can only lead to weaknesses and disaster.

Speaking at the annual District Conference of the Maida--No. 51 District on the Corentyne Sunday, Cde. Hoyte said Caricom leaders had taken a decision to increase food production and that decision was ratified some time later.

Caricom countries by taking the initiative to increase food production did not find favour with the United States Administration. Guyana was the first country to place a restriction on certain food imports and this infuriated Reagan. As such, a campaign was launched to disrupt the Unity of Caricom, Cde. Hoyte said.

He disclosed that more than two billion dollars worth of food was imported annually by Caricom countries.

Cde Hoyte said that the Guyana Government has been spending vast sums of money to assist farmers in the production drive, having recognised the need for the nation to be self-sufficient in food placed heavy emphasis on Agriculture.

He called on Party members to be in the vanguard of the struggle to ensure the self-sufficiency of the Nation.

The installation and charge at the conference were given by Central Committee Member, Cde Sallahuddin. These elected were Clement Wong--Chairman; Aubrey Allen--Secretary, Dowlatram Ragubar--Treasurer, and Randolph Kendall Alternate General Council Member.

Mobilization Program

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 27 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] House-to-house visits, worksite meetings and a number of General Members meetings are part of a campaign initiated by the People's National Congress in Region Six as part of a mobilisation programme launched by Vice-Chairman of the People's National Congress, Cde Robert Corbin last week.

Many leading Party and government functionaries were in the Region for what has been called a live-in exercise. Among them were Cde Kenneth Denny, Cde Harun Rashid, Central Committee member, Cde Ranji Candisingh, Cde Malcolm Corrica and Cde Carl Greenidge. A number of PNC Members of Parliament were also involved in the exercise.

Cdes Denny and Rashid were scheduled to hold meetings with workers at the Everton branch of the Guyana Mining Enterprise. Cde Carl Greenidge was to have met workers of the Guyana National Trading Corporation while Cde Chandisingh was to have met with workers of the New Amsterdam municipality.

Cde Corrica was scheduled to visit the New Amsterdam market and hold a meeting with the stall-holders there. Then Cde Denny was to have met with workers of Guyana Electricity Corporation before conducting an evaluation at the headquarters of the People's National Congress in New Amsterdam.

The programme in Region Six ended with a Food Fair and a Market Day. And in Region Three a similar exercise was launched by Party General Secretary, Cde Ptolemy Reid at the Den Amsel Primary School. In addition to th:

government and Party functionaries participants of the 38th batch of the Guyana Developers provided support for the exercise.

A correspondence from the Party Secretariat explained that the exercise is designed to make the people more aware of the message of self-reliance and to help them identify the relevant strategies to aid in the solution of problems in the various communities.

The exercise was also designed to make the people in the communities share their experiences on the initiatives they were adopting to cope with the economic crisis.

Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the General Secretary and Member of Parliament, Cde Basdeo Bhaggan, who recently headed a two-member delegation to Nicaragua has expressed the solidarity of the Guyanese people with the people of Nicaragua.

At a meeting with representatives of the Sandinista Front for National Liberation (FSLN) in Nicaragua, Cde Bhaggan explained that one of the main reasons for the visit was to establish friendly relations among the various related organisations in Guyana and Nicaragua.

Cde Bhaggan who was accompanied by YSM Regional Chairman, Cde Brian Scott, told his Nicaragua counterparts that in Guyana, imperialism is described as a dying lion which is therefore at its most dangerous.

Cde Scott noted that progressive young people in the continent had the will and the capacity to halt the process of re-colonisation now being spear-headed by the Reagan Administration.

He called on the youths of Nicaragua to support the Sandinista revolution led by the FSLN and so provide a solid wall against the imperialist machinations of the US Administration.

The delegation spent one week in Nicaragua as guests of the Sandinista government and during that time they held meetings with Cde Freddy Figueroa, an official in the Department of International Relations of the FSLN and a number of other officials.

Cde Figueroa has since visited Guyana to bring the nation up-to-date on the Sandinista Revolution and a Nicaraguan delegation is expected to be in Guyana for the Peace Conference next January.

Corbin on Independence

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 27 Nov 83 p 5

[Text] The sharpened sensitivity of national leaders to the threat to the independence of Guyana which lurks in the armed invasion of

Grenada is evidence that our Co-operative Republic is alive to the implications of what is happening in the region.

Our Comrade Leader, President Forbes Burnham, has given the nation the usual lead in seeing the armed invasion in the light

of the disregard it implies for the territorial integrity and political independence of other nations in the world especially if those nations want to develop an ideology of their own.

Now another national leader, Cde Robert Corbin, Minister of Mobilisation told residents of the West Demerara-Canals Polder district to ensure that Guyana remains a genuinely independent country. Cde Corbin added that, unlike Guyana where genuine

independence is being pursued there are many countries today which fly their own flags but that is all there is to their independence.

He was addressing a rally at the West Demerara Secondary School in support of Grenada. He said that many developed countries believed that countries such as Guyana should not be allowed to achieve genuine independence and those developed countries resort to hostile measures.

He said that for genuine development there was need to ensure that analysis of the aggression on Grenada strengthens our resolve to be more dedicated, to lead by example and to be good Party comrades.

The National flag and the National Anthem are the ornate and stimulating evidences of independence. But the territorial integrity of the country and the people's readiness never to submit or yield in its defence, ensures that independence will be in the safe keeping of the people.

Hamilton on Party Requirements

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 27 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Regional Development, Cde Stanley Hamilton, has urged Guyanese to ensure that their Party's programme in their locality be demonstrative of the ability of the Party to achieve self-reliance.

Addressing the district conference of the Harmony-Fyrish District Sunday, Cde Hamilton told participants that focus should be on organising people to produce and by doing so with the infrastructures which are supportive of such production.

There is also need for the People's National Congress to work closer with the people and local centres of administration, he said, and urged that as members of the Party, people should work in harmony, thereby creating for the Party, the respect and responsiveness of citizens.

Cde Hamilton added that the Party should at all times be in the vanguard at community level and stressed the need for propagating the policy of community self-reliance.

Public officers in the districts should be invited to conferences to sit in during the secretary's report, since this report deals with the social and economic situation of the district. This practice, Cde Hamilton said, would give such public officers an opportunity to deal with the problems in an objective manner. Public officers are allowed to sit-in on all sessions with the exception of the secretary's report session.

The new district officers for the ensuing year are Cde Samuel George, District Chairman; Edwin McLean, secretary; Walter Sukhu, treasurer; and Cecil Ramkirpaul alternate General Council member.

The feature address was given by Central Executive Committee member Hamilton Green.

CSO: 3298/328/329

CAPTURED BANDIT GROUP FOUND TO BE HEAVILY ARMED

Georgetown MIRROR in English 27 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Police at Guybridge on Tuesday last took into custody 6 heavily armed men and a vehicle in which they were travelling. They were later handed over to CID detectives, and up to press time are still in the lock-ups assisting the Eve Leary sleuths in their investigations. The men are believed to be gangsters for in their possession was found fire-arms including sub-machine guns. The amount of arms they possessed shocked the police.

MIRROR understands from sources on the West Demerara that the police are keeping quiet about this haul, while pursuing their investigations. This information however has galvanised the many active vigilante groups on the West Demerara, and they are again insisting on fire-arms being distributed to them to combat gangsters.

Recently in Canal No. 1 Polder, vigilante groups mistook a police special squad going into the area for bandits and blocked the road. Upon their return the policemen (who reportedly had two wanted men in their custody and some \$156,000 in stolen government money) opened fire on the vigilante groups at the roadblock sending them scampering to safety. The vigilante groups later lodged a strong protest with the Crime Chief, and deemed the violent police action to be one of scant courtesy to them. The police accusation that the vigilantes opened fire first has been denied by the vigilante groups.

The PPP is looking into this incident with the view to ensuring that it does not occur again anywhere. The police and the vigilantes should co-operate in crime fighting activities, according to a PPP spokesman.

In the meantime on the ECD aroused residents pounced on 4 armed men and beat two of them to death at Greenfield. They had kicked down the door of a resident to rob him. The bandits opened fire, but the furious neighbours ignored the bullets and pounced on them in large numbers. Two escaped. Some days later police gunned down 3 more gangsters who had escaped from the lock-ups at Mahaicory. In both incidents the dead men were on the wanted list.

At Adventure on the Essequibo, bandits broke into the home of a resident using an iron bar. The occupant who has a firearm exchanged heavy fire with the intruders who escaped as neighbours began gathering in the vicinity.

MIRROR understands that several barefaced robberies took place in Essequibo over the past week, including burglaries, snatching, rustling, etc. The booty consisted of cash, jewellery, stereo-sets, foodstuffs, clothing, and livestock.

CSO: 3298/329

REPORT ON WOMEN'S MOVEMENT DELEGATION IN PEOPLE'S CHINA

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 27 Nov 83 pp 3, 4

[Text] Cde. Viola Burnham is the head of a delegation of the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement currently in the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the All China Women's Federation.

The delegation has a full programme of visits and meetings with their Chinese counterparts. At those meetings, discussions will centre around the work and the achievements of the All China Women's Federation and the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement as well as exchanges of ideas on the use of appropriate technology for development.

A courtesy call was made on Madame Deng Yingchao, the widow of the former Chinese Premier, Chou Enlai. Madame Deng Yingchao is currently the chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Consultative Conference and Honorary President of the All China Women's Federation.

At that meeting Madame Deng gave a brief history of the Chinese Women's Federation and Cde. Burnham spoke of the work and the development of Guyanese women. Both of them agreed that there should be a continued sharing of ideas between the two women's groups.

Commenting on other issues Madame Deng said that China, Guyana and many other countries opposed the arms race of the superpowers and their encroachments on other nations' territories. She added that the women of China and Guyana share many common ideals and have always contributed to their countries' progress.

Later, on the same day, Cde. Burnham paid a courtesy call on Premier Zhao Ziyang. Again a wide range of issues was touched on. Premier Zhao said that the Chinese government was concerned over the increasing tension in the Caribbean region.

He said that China consistently maintained that all countries, whether large or small, are equal in international affairs, and that no big power had the right to interfere in another state's affairs.

That is why China strongly condemns the U.S. sending for troops to Grenada and demands that the U.S. immediately withdraws its troops from Grenada.

Touching on China's relations with the Third World, in general, and then more specifically with China/Guyana bilateral relations, Premier Zhao said that strengthening unity and co-operation with the Third World is the cornerstone of China's foreign policy.

He noted that relations between China and Guyana are good. He also pledged continuous efforts to strengthen and develop friendship and co-operation between the two countries and asked Cde. Burnham to convey his cordial regards to Leader of the PNC, Cde. Forbes Burnham.

In response, Cde. Burnham said that Guyana has benefited from the establishment of diplomatic relations with China. She said, "we have learned a lot in our current visit, especially about the Chinese people's spirit of self-reliance and their experience in making use of their national resources to create wealth for the country."

While in Beijing, the W.R.S.M. delegation visited a kindergarten, China's National Children's Centre, a production brigade and the Beijing Jade Carving Factory.

They also participated in a symposium on "the contribution of our movement towards the integration of women in society and the strengthening of international relationships."

An important topic of discussion at that symposium was "Appropriate Technology for Rural Development."

The W.R.S.M. delegation were guests on honour at a banquet put on the by Chinese at the Great Hall of the people. Two days later they were themselves the hosts at a banquet in honour of the All China Women's Federation. The latter function was at the residence of Guyana's Ambassador to China.

The delegation then left for two cities farther south where they embarked on a more intensive programme of visits to places of interest and relevant to the work of the W.R.S.M.

In Shanghai they visited a residential area, a commune in the rural district and a children's palace. They also toured a factory where embroidery is done.

A fourth factory which specialises in the production of dried and preserved fruits was also visited. While in this city, the delegation had the opportunity to attend a demonstration on the making of bread and the W.R.S.M. delegates were taken on a tour of another children's palace, a primary school, a folk art studio, a Buddhist temple and another commune. They also visited various factories producing rice noodles, cane and rattan products and pottery and porcelain products.

In all the cities they have visited the W.R.S.M. delegation have had useful discussions with their Chinese counterparts which would result in increasing co-operation between China and Guyana.

UNION TO HELP STOP ILLEGAL PRAWNING; FISHING SALES BOOSTED

Call on GLU

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Nov 83 p 5

[Article by George Barclay]

[Text] **MEMBERS** of the Guyana Labour Union have been called upon by their union to take on a "watchdog" role so as to help management of Guyana Fisheries Ltd., stamp out the theft of prawns on the high seas by pirates. This illicit sale of prawns, some of which are reaching certain local restaurants, is said to have resulted in the country losing thousands of dollars weekly in valuable foreign exchange.

The call to members on behalf of the Union was made Saturday by GLU General Secretary Stanton Critchlow.

The GLU's move resulted from a recent call "to help save the shrimping industry" from Executive Chairman of Guyana Fisheries, Limited, Robert Williams, who reported that the industry was losing thousands of dollars in foreign exchange through the

illicit sale of prawns on the high seas.

Asked to explain how he thought his members would be able to help, Cde Critchlow told the **Chronicle** "they could do so in many ways—by persuasion and explanation and being watchdogs for any move that was considered inimical to the interest of the development of the industry."

Cde Critchlow added. "In relation to the watchdog role, I would expect workers to be ever vigilant and be prepared at all times to report to management anyone who was found to be party to the illicit prawns trade.

At the meeting yesterday morning, Cde Critchlow told workers that it was their God-given right to see that security of employment was maintained. Noting that it was alleged by the Chairman that the theft on the high seas, where prawns

are sold and bartered for other commodities such as cigarettes, by some people who are behaving as pirates, Cde. Critchlow observed that the problem could be overcome by persuasion and explanation and increased sea patrol.

He added: "In order to prevent pilfering, we will have to give our captains certain incentives and provide our crew with certain amenities."

He was sure that when that was done the majority of the captains and crew would realise their future and that of their families as well as the nation as a whole was dependent on their performance and the success of the industry.

The GLU General Secretary also suggested that the army should increase its patrol by sea and air in order to detect the pirates and bring the offenders to justice.

New Fish Distribution Plan

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 27 Nov 83 p 5

[Text] The Guyana Fisheries Limited has embarked on a more positive fish distribution system in all the regions of the country in a special effort to ensure that large quantities of fish are made available to residents at reasonable prices.

Guyana Fisheries currently distributes 10 000 kilograms (23,000 pounds) of mixed fish each day in the different areas of the country.

Central Executive Committee member and Chairman of Guyana Fisheries, Cde. Robert Williams, has said that since the new distribution system started consumers have benefited from a cheap source of fish protein. He added that the distribution figures of the year have increased tremendously.

Some 7 000 kilograms of mixed fish is distributed every Friday in Region Ten by refrigerated trucks.

Cde. Williams further, said that total output figure of fish has doubled compared with the corresponding period last year. He said that last year October the fish production figure was 65 000 kilograms. However, for the same period this year that figure has been doubled exceedingly to 150 000 kilograms.

And Cde. Williams has reiterated his call for an end to the illegal trade being conducted by shrimping vessels of the Corporation. Recently there has been a reported increase in illegal sale of fisheries products by GLF fleets.

CSO: 3298/329

STRIKES, OTHER FACTORS IMPEDE SUGAR PRODUCTION

Target Revision

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Guysuco has revised the sugar industry's production target for 1983 to an estimated 280 000 tons, about 20 000 tons less than the initial proposal.

SUGAR NEWS quoted Chairman Harold Davis as making the disclosure recently at a function at the Management Training Centre at Ogle. Production so far, had reached 213770 tons by November 15, the monthly organ reported. It said that among the reasons given for the revision of the target were the lack of timely application of fertilisers, the inadequate provision of essential factory spares and the falling standards of performance due mainly to the drain of the industry's manpower resources.

Production Figures

Georgetown MIRROR in English 27 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] Guysuco is making determined strides towards the year's target of 280,000 tons sugar. Its rate of production has been increasing over the past weeks culminating last week in an excess of 10 per cent above that week's target. It was also the largest production output in volume for the year...9,240 tons. In a press release pertaining to that achievement, Guysuco said:

"Together, the 10 factories produced 9,240 tons sugar which represent 110.6 per cent of the week's estimate of 8,355 tons. The crop has reached 132,105 tons, or 76.7 per cent of the estimates of 172,160 tons to date; while the year's production now stands at 218,200 tons."

The state-owned entity stressed that it is proceeding towards year-end with the crop, owing to factors which it listed as "late start because of unfavourable weather in the early part of the crop, strikes, and mechanical down-time, all of which slowed down operations". Two estates which were supposed to be off production, have been kept going.

Once again the firm lamented work stoppages, for it declared:

"The corporation continues to express concern over the regularity of strikes which have so far been a main hindrance to production. During the week 5 estates (Albion/Port Mourant, Enmore, Diamond, Leonora, Uitvlugt) suffered considerably from strikes, while Uitvlugt was also affected by arson which accounted for the destruction of 58.5 acres of 5th ratoon canes."

For several weeks now Guysuco has been protesting against unauthorised burning of canes.

Assuming that 6 full weeks (including holidays) remains to year-end, Guysuco will have to produce an average of some 10,300 tons sugar to reach the year's target. [as published]

Strike Details

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 28 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Not a joint of cane was ground nor an ounce of sugar produced for almost four days last week at the Leonora factory. From Monday to Thursday, over 90 percent of the workforce at the sugar estate was on strike.

According to workers, on Sunday, November 20, tractor operator Mahadeo was instructed to take a number of punts to the backdam. He explained that the length of rope provided him was too short to connect the punts safely. The tractor would have ended up stranded in the middle walk. He refused to carry out the task unless supplied with a longer rope. Assistant Field Manager Duncan then "interdicted" the worker from duty, in other words, sent him home. As a result of management's action, the workers went on strike.

By Thursday night the factory resumed work with scab labour. Workers say they returned to work to prevent a dangerous situation developing with the scabbing. It is estimated that over \$50,000.00 was lost to the industry as a result of the strike.

At the nearby estate of Uitvlugt canecutters were up in arms over arbitrary and underhand practices of management with respect to the pricing of their work. According to our West Coast reporter, agreement was reached for \$10.11 per "toss" (cut and load, an average of two beds per punt). When the work began, the supervisor cut the price down to \$4.00. The cane cutters completed enough work to hold down the 40 punts available to them and then started the protest. Management then apparently offered some workers \$16 per toss and told the others that they had accepted the \$4 price. This combination of bribery and trickery further angered the workers. Last Sunday's CHRONICLE reported significant factory down-time this week especially at Uitvlugt, which lost 49 hours of grinding time.

CSO: 3298/330

UNION REJECTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR INDUSTRIAL AILMENTS

Blackman Charges

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 13 Nov 83 p 6

[Article by Carl Blackman]

[Text] We can proudly beat our breasts over the fact that our stand on the Grenada issue is in line with the positions of an overwhelming majority of free nations of the world. But do not let the self-adulation and euphoria fly to our heads and blind us to the brutal fact that never before in our history have we faced such a campaign of vengeance with the aim of isolating, ostracising and bringing us to our knees both economically and politically. We have apparently incurred the wrath and increased hostility of our blood brothers in the Caribbean and the quislings, instead of slinking in the corner with remorse, are instead accusing us of betrayal and calling for the setting up of Caricom 2 without 'communist Guyana.'

Caricom 2! That sounds like Vatican II and just in keeping with the moral hypocrisy of these MacCarthy-like men whose anachronistic outlook is surprising even in this mud puddle Caribbean Basin.

Significantly, even though Trinidad has taken a stand similar to ours, the criticisms against Chambers has been less vitriolic--they realise full well that they all need Trinidad's oil wealth to survive. [as published] The lesson is that if we were a prosperous nation we could have defiantly told them to stuff Caricom 2 up their St. James Coast and they would have smiled a greasy smile and said they did not mean it. But despite our 83 000 square miles and vast potential, we are poor. Why?

When all the excuses about destabilisation, imperialism, the international conspiracy to keep the prices of Third World commodities depressed, bad weather, bad luck and so forth run out one incontrovertible fact remains. A good part of the blame lies at our own doorstep.

Here is a country where all the leaders are proud leftists, an unending tug-o-war has kept our economy sliding and give our neighbours excuse to mock socialism and gloat over our setback. [as published]

Take sugar, for instance. We all hoped that with the departure of the sugar barons after independence we would have seen a big increase in prosperity if just by getting the profits which Bookers ripped off and shipped home. Don't tell me: I am aware the bottom fell out the sugar market. But what is compounding our problems is the fact there seems to be an almost computerised calculation by the sugar unions to stage enough strikes to keep production below target but not too many to prevent their production bonuses from being reasonably good.

Take bauxite. From the day Alcan left, there were politicians pouring poison in the ears of the workers and government was so concerned about saving the industry that so many concessions were made that in the long run both efficiency, morale plummeted and buyers turned to cheaper and more reliable suppliers.

I can hear the chorus of rebuttals and alibis. I am not concerned. The people of the Caribbean don't care. They equate socialism with food shortages and political squabbles and while opposition politicians scurry abroad to denounce the government, what they are in fact doing is making a laughing stock of us all.

Why it is that it is only on international issues like Grenada government and opposition reach unanimity and unity? [as published] By our actions and our lack of progress we have given socialism a bad name and have given the 'anti-communist' crusaders ammunition to spread the propaganda that socialism means totalitarian tyranny and trot out the lurid tales of gulags, arbitrary arrests and unending misery.

Despite the senseless and brutal bloodshed in Grenada, despite our disappointing and disheartening progress and despite all the frantic efforts of the canutes of the Caribbean, I still insist that what we need is a system specially tailored to our needs and aspirations. It is no point, for instance, being copycats and introduce a high-yielding strain of rice when it calls for massive inputs of fertilisers which we do not produce.

It is self-defeating to try to be self-sufficient in poultry in order to save foreign exchange if to produce chickens that are finger-licking good, we have to spend almost the same amount of foreign exchange we are trying to conserve.

Unbridled capitalism is not our answer and no Caribbean leader in his right mind can push (for long) his people on the road to any extreme form of socialism. Several European countries are looking for a socialist solution, so why not the Caribbean nations who have just thrown off the yoke of oppression and therefore have a right and a duty to seek out a palatable mix of capitalism and socialism peculiar to our needs and aspirations.

Seaga is finding out that just throwing money at problems is not the answer yet he leads the crusade to dismantle Caricom and set up a new grouping of what he probably regards as upright Christian states. He may succeed in pushing Guyana out in the cold but in the long run Caricom would become a

less viable entity and expose us all to the danger of losing both our economic and political independence. We want to keep out the super power struggle. If we had to choose a way to go we would prefer XM any day to MX.

GAWU Response

Georgetown MIRROR in English 27 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] The Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union has denounced an attack on unions in the sugar industry contained in an article penned by GUYANA CHRONICLE columnist Carl Blackman, and carried in the issue of Sunday, November 13, 1983. In this article Mr. Carl Blackman charged that both the sugar and bauxite industries are ailing because of agitation by the workers and in particular strikes by the sugar workers. As usual he whitewashed the central government of all blame.

Defending the sugar workers, GAWU Communications Officer James Dastajir in a comment to the media said:

He mentioned the low prices on the international market and hit out at the sugar unions by stating that "there seems to be an almost computerised calculation by the sugar unions to stage enough strikes to keep production below target but not to prevent their production bonuses from being reasonably good".

Mr. Blackman is out of touch with what is really happening in the sugar industry.

On the world market the price for sugar is better now than what it was a year ago. Besides we sell the bulk of our sugar to the European Economic Community where prices are far above the world market price and above cost of production. The remainder is sold primarily to Canada and the United States where the price received is above the world market price.

The attack against the sugar unions is absurd, for at this particular time the workers are tirelessly working to increase production. The strikes mentioned by Mr. Blackman are really stoppages of work arising from the abnormal conditions of work which demand extra payment. In the absence of an agreed formula to settle these disputes and the attitudes adopted by the employers not to expeditiously settle such disputes, they are prolonged much to the disadvantage of the workers who lose wages.

I am not aware of the sugar unions calling any strikes during the present crop, therefore it is rather silly to blame the unions for actions which gave rise to work stoppages.

The Unions have also not agreed to any target. It was Guvsuco which unilaterally fixed the target of 280,000 tons for the year. Because of disagreement, Guvsuco and the Unions are at present at conciliation trying to resolve the target and also the level of payment in incentives to be paid to the workers.

Production has not been the same when compared to last year, but that is due to several factors among them being the late start of the crop, high tons/canes per ton of sugar, low tons/sugar per acre, factory downtime due to breakages, work stoppages, etc. Many of these factors the Unions have no control whatsoever over. Besides, the targets have been increased for the months already passed without consideration taken of constraints like spare-parts.

The level of payment for the Annual Production incentive for 1983 has not been agreed upon, but should one examine payments for the Special Monthly Production Incentive, the gross contempt for sugar workers is visible. Up to the end of October, payments of the Special Incentive for 1982 and 1983 on the various estates were as follow:

<u>Estate</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Skeldon	6	1
Albion	10	4
Rose Hall	8	-
Blaimont	10	-
Enmore	10	-
L.B.I.	8	-
Houston	6	4
Diamond	9	3
Wales	5	1
Versailles	3	-
Leonora	8	-
Uitvlugt	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>
	89	19

From the foregoing facts and figures, one is at a loss to fathom what "computerised calculation" Mr. Blackman used to arrive at his bogus conclusions.

Denny Praise for Unions

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] Minister of Manpower and Cooperatives Cde Kenneth Denny, on Sunday told trade unionists that the Government will never use political power against the people.

He added that it was the people who put the government in office, and the trade union plays a very important role, to the extent that two ministers of the government are on the Executive Council of the Guyana Trades Union Council.

At the time, Cde Denny was declaring open the First Biennial Conference of the Field Foremen and Supervisors Union at the Critchlow Labour College.

The Minister said that no force on earth can destroy the unity of workers. He added that the trade unions are partners in the construction of the country.

Cde Denny said that trade unions are very vital to the labour movement and added that workers can contribute greatly by being punctual on the job and producing efficiently.

Trade union affiliation to the People's National Congress does not make unions ineffective, Cde Denny said. Affiliation should help to give workers the much needed direction concerning their goals.

Cde Denny said that trade unionists worth their salt must be concerned with people and their welfare, and referred to the late Hubert Critchlow and the late Auyub Edun.

At the conference delegates passed a motion condemning the Grenada invasion. They also endorsed a motion making Cde Richard Ishmael, a former, President of the Manpower Citizens Association and a former President of the Guyana Trades Union Congress an Honorary President of the Guyana Field Foremen and Supervisors Union. [as published]

It was also disclosed that delegates voted for a two dollar increase in union dues. The members will now have to pay \$6.00 per month.

Following are results of the elections: Cde Mohamed Inshan, President; Cde Khemraj Misir, First Vice President; Cde Kitsingh Rampit, Second Vice President; Cde Minie Dataram, Third Vice President; Cde Cleveland Charran, Secretary; Cde Kassin Khan, Treasurer; Cde Ramesh Singh, Assistant Secretary.

Members of the Committee are Cde Seenarine Hamer, Cde Harrie Dookie, Cde Basil Mohabir, Cde Nazir Khan, Cde Abdool Sattaur, Cde Lawrence Samaroo.

The Secretary and Assistant Secretary will serve at the pleasure of the Executive Council.

CSO: 3298/330

DETAILED PREPARATION OF 1984 BUDGET IN FINAL STAGE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

THE detailed preparations of the 1984 Budget is now in its crucial stage with the nation's top finance experts carrying out minute examinations of the estimates submitted by the Ministries and other agencies.

The meetings are being held at Bidco Training Centre in Queenstown mainly, and up to late yesterday Permanent Secretaries and their back-up teams were meeting with a high level panel which has been charged with drafting the Budget.

One official who has already seen the panel twice, commented that some "tough talking" is going on with the result that some Permanent Secretaries have been invited to submit revised proposals scaling down expenditure.

The team meeting with the Permanent Secretaries and other administrative heads include Vice-President, Production, Cde

Desmond Hoyte who is one of a three-member Cabinet Finance Committee exercising general supervision of the country's financial affairs.

Others on the panel are Finance and Economic Planning Minister Carl Greenidge, Chairman of the State planning Commission Haslyn Parry and Senior Planner Dr. Roy Ibbott, Bank of Guyana Governor Pat Matthews and other high ranking, banking and financial experts.

Each Ministry's estimates are being examined with "a fine tooth comb" and every penny has to be justified, the Chronicle learnt.

Some of the sessions have already run late into the night with indications that this pattern will continue until the Budget is completed.

No deadline has been officially stated but well-informed sources said it appears as though the Budget could be ready for presentation to the National Assembly before year-end.

CSO: 3298/331

ESSEQUIBIANS EXHORTED TO DO MORE IN AGRICULTURAL DRIVE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Nov 83 p 3

[Text]

ANNA REGINA, (GNA) — Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, **Basdeo Bhaggan**, has urged Essequibians to become fully involved in the agriculture sector and fulfil the goal of national self-sufficiency in food production.

Cde. Bhaggan said the region must first determine its needs and produce large surpluses of foods to assist in bringing about a change in the country's economy.

The Parliamentary Secretary was deputising for Minister of Regional and National Development **Robert Corbin** in delivering the feature address at the Second Annual Conference of the Ever Green-Good Hope district Sunday.

Cde. Bhaggan said that now, more than at any other time in Guyana's development, Guyanese need to produce more food since a country which depends on another country to feed its people will never be completely self-sufficient.

Cde. Bhaggan said that district officials need to institute better educational programmes in the group so that all persons will be exposed to learning situations which would enhance their personal development.

Party members must develop the determination and resilience to defend the gains which they have struggled for and towards this end, they must be prepared to develop the kind of skills and attitude which are relevant to a war situation by becoming members of the Guyana People's Militia.

All Guyanese must be prepared to give unreserved solidarity and support for the Grenadian people in their hour of need, **Cde. Bhaggan** added.

During the conference, **Cde. Terrence Shepherd** read a message from the PNC Chairman **Cammie Ramsaroop** to conference delegates.

—(GNA)

HOYTE LAUNCHES MMA COMMUNITY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 83 p 8

[Text]

A NOVEL community programme "MMA in the Community" aimed at making farmers in the Mahalca, Mahalcony, Abary project area aware of the systems of the Scheme, and of the Scheme's plans and programmes was launched Friday at Bush Lot on the West Coast Berbice.

Scores of farmers who will benefit directly from the Scheme turned up at the Latchmansingh Primary School to take full advantage of the exercise.

"MMA in the Community" is an "out-reach" programme which is also intended to bring the Authority closer to the farming community. It is planned to be a weekly exercise.

Vice-President, Production, Desmond Hoyte who was on hand last Friday to launch the programme took the opportunity to discuss a host of problems affecting farmers in the area. Several on-the-spot decisions were made and the **Vice-President** promised to personally look into a number of others.

Problems affecting the farmers include the shortage of paddy bags, delays in payment for paddy sold to the Guyana Rice Board (GRB), ineffective storage

systems at the GRB and the slow intake of paddy by the GRB.

Farmers also spoke about the need for compensation for crops destroyed as a result of development works and complained about ineffective drainage and irrigation in some areas, and about the need for an improved system for land distribution.

The farmers complained that because of the shortage of jute bags which prevents them from harvesting their paddy on time, they were experiencing heavy losses.

The problem was addressed recently by General Manager of the GRB **Leon Dundas** who had explained that a shipment of bags on order from the German

Democratic Republic (GDR) has been delayed because of shipping problems.

As a result of the discussions facilitated by the "out-reach" programme, one farmer will receive compensation for his crop of blackeye which was damaged because of development works in the area. Another who contended that compensation offered for his crops was inadequate will have his matter looked into by the **Vice-President**.

In addressing the packed school hall **Vice-President Hoyte** once again stressed the importance of food self-sufficiency as an essential component of national independence and national security. —(GNA)

CSO: 3298/331

BRIEFS

MANAGEMENT FOR MILITARY--The need for management skills in the military services was yesterday stressed by Deputy-Director General of the Guyana National Service Charwin Burnham. Speaking during the opening session of a two-week course for Non-Commissioned Officers of the Service Cde Burnham said that the environment is very crucial in the field of management. He said the economic and political climate in particular should be taken into consideration by managers during the course of their work. The course is being conducted by officials of the Management Training Institute. One of its main objectives is to identify the functions of management and examine how these can be carried out by the participants. The study of various communication techniques and the application of these in particular circumstances will form part of the training programme. (GNA). [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Nov 83 p 3]

RELEASE OF VENEZUELAN TRAWLER--The Government of Guyana has decided to release one of the six Venezuelan fishing trawlers caught operating in Guyana's Fishery Zone. The fishing boat the Narval, has been released as a gesture of goodwill the Foreign Ministry explained yesterday. The six Venezuelan trawlers were escorted to Port Georgetown during last week by the Maritime Corps of the Guyana Defence Force. The Narval was reportedly found fishing. Meanwhile, the captains of the Venezuelan vessels have been granted bail by a local magistrate. In a statement last Thursday the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had stressed that while respecting the right of passage of boats through this country's Fishery Zone, the Guyana Government had a duty to protect the resources of this zone from being illegally exploited. The Ministry had also stressed that in the context of the assurances given by the Guyana and Venezuela Governments to the UN Secretary-General that both countries would make every effort to maintain a climate conducive to the settlement of the Guyana-Venezuela territorial controversy, the Guyana Government had given Venezuela notice on September 21 of its intention to actively protect Guyana's resources in the Fishery Zone. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Nov 83 p 1]

REID IN BERBICE--East Berbice (GNA)--Prime Minister Dr. Ptolemy Reid will be among a team of eight Government Ministers who will be involved in a series of face the community meetings and fan out exercises in Region Six East Berbice-Corentyne this week. The Ministers, who will begin their visit today will participate in field and worksite exercises in various parts of

the region. They will also hold discussions with workers in government agencies, co-operative societies and Local Authorities. The exercise is part of a one-week Live-in programme which was launched last Friday by Minister of Mobilisation Robert Corbin. It is geared at sensitising members of the community of regional and national issues and at the same time discuss problems facing the communities. Today Minister of Energy and Mines Harun Rashid will address bauxite workers at Everton at 10:00 hours while Economic and Finance Minister Carl Greenidge will meet with doctors and nurses at the New Amsterdam Hospital and employees of GNTC and Guyana Stores. Minister of International Trade and Consumer Protection 'Malcolm Corrica will be meeting with consumers, stall holders and shopkeepers at the New Amsterdam Town Hall while Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture Cde Sallahuddin will be at the Port Mourant Community Centre where he will address farmers and co-operators. Dr. Reid will be the main speaker at a Face-the-Community meeting at Number 48 Government School on Thursday afternoon. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Nov 83 pp 4-5]

DELINQUENT CO-OP LOANS--East Berbice, [GNA]--Action would be taken against members who are in default of honouring their loans from Co-operative Credit Unions in Guyana, said Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives Kenneth Denny last week. He said co-operators must be educated if the co-operative movement is to develop and be the dominant sector in the country. Minister Denny made this remark when declaring open a new \$75 000 building of the New Amsterdam Co-operative Credit Union. The building, he said, must be fully utilised and must be a learning and teaching centre for members. Cde. Denny, who described the New Amsterdam Credit Union as the only community credit union in Guyana, stressed the need for accountability and honesty of members of the union. He praised the co-operators for their efforts in acquiring their own building which he said would be a stepping stone for the promotion of co-operative activities in the communities of Region Six. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 83 p 1]

UNDELIVERED MILK--Fourteen thousand ctns of Canada Best full cream powdered milk arrived in the country on Nov. 6, but up to the time of writing no news has come of it having reached the public. A check at some public institutions revealed that they had received none. The Buying Clubs, created specifically to enable public servants to get scarce items are also still awaiting supplies. Unconfirmed reports claim that the bulk of the milk has been allocated to the Army and paramilitary forces. Another 11,000 ctns are due to arrive at monthend. The country in normal times uses 19,500 ctns a month, but as for months there has been an acute shortage of milk, the 14,000 plus 11,000 ctns are expected to disappear as soon as issued--any many will reappear on the black market at exorbitant prices. Other shipments are expected to follow and are said to have been already paid for. [Text] [Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 27 Nov 83 pp 1, 3]

CSO: 3298/331

TEXT OF SEAGA ADDRESS AT 17 DECEMBER SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Dec 83 pp 1C, 5C, 8C •

[The following is the address by the Rt Hon Edward Seaga on the occasion of his being sworn-in as prime minister, by the governor-general of Jamaica, at King's House, on Saturday]

[Text] : We are embarking on a new era of political life with the beginning of this new Administration.

The results of the General Election of December 15 gave all 60 seats to the Jamaica Labour Party, 54 of them uncontested.

This is not a result we desired or planned.

It was inevitably thrust upon us when one Party boycotted the race.

However much of substance or however much a pretext this boycott may be the fact is that it is behind us and it is imperative that we face the future now not the past.

I propose to do so on this occasion on which I have now been sworn-in as Prime Minister for a second time.

I shall begin with the political implications for the future.

We face the challenge of a Parliament without an elected Opposition.

To determine where this may have impact on our political life, we must examine the roles of an Opposition and determine how we may produce alternatives to an elected Opposition since there is none.

The Government which I lead attaches great importance to the encouragement of opposing views within our parliamentary system.

A Parliament comprised of one side only, one view alone, was not of our choice nor of our making.

CHALLENGE

Our paramount task, therefore, in the absence of an elected Opposition is

to devise the means whereby we can ensure that opposing views are given full opportunity to be heard in our parliamentary system.

This is the challenge we face and the challenge we will meet successfully with bold and creative thinking.

I begin with the Senate where the Leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister is required by the Constitution to nominate the full membership of the Senate.

In keeping with our expressed overriding intention to ensure that opposing views will be heard in the Parliament, it is my intention to nominate eight persons to the Senate who are persons of national stature, having expertise in particular fields of vital interest, and who are not persons connected to or supporters of the Jamaica Labour Party.

On my own side in selecting the 13 members whom I shall nominate in my own right as Prime Minister I shall select persons of a wide variety of interests and expertise comprising many persons of national stature. Indeed, many persons have voiced the widely held view that this is how the Senate should be comprised, that it should not be a political mirror image of the House of Representatives reflecting purely the political will.

It has been the view, expressing a national wish, an idealistic hope that one day we would have a Senate which would offer other views with fresh insight on problems in debate.

The nation has never had the opportunity to appoint a Senate of such calibre for as one Party nominated members with a heavy political bias, the other was obliged to do likewise.

This opportunity to introduce new blood in Parliamentary talent, fresh insight in Parliamentary debate, can only serve the nation well. We cannot lose by accepting this challenge to boldly offer the nation a creative concept of a new Senate to fulfil now what we have failed to do in 21 years — structure the Senate, the Upper Chamber of Parliament in the manner of which the framers of our Constitution dreamed.

That the Senate will become a chamber of vigorous debate, is without questions, moreso than was the pattern of the past.

It is my hope that the Senate will so succeed in reflecting, in debate, national views, that it will set a tone and mould a character which will so indelibly impact upon the public mind that the Senate of the Future, whatever may be its manner of selection, will always reflect the lessons which we shall learn from the bold steps which I propose today.

NEW VISION

If we face this challenge with the determination to succeed, we may well, in this our 21st Year of Independence, bequeath to the nation a new vision of men who can help to channel thoughts not only in the patterned stream of Party thinking but in a new stream which contributes thoughts that flow freely from the river of the national consciousness.

Let me examine now the role of an Opposition in the House of Representatives.

Their absence from the House has aroused fears that debates will be one-sided.

This would indeed be the case and such fears would be justified if we took no steps to compensate for this absence of a formal Opposition in the House.

But in keeping with that is our expressed and overriding intention to encourage opportunities for the expression of opposing views, it is not our intention that the House of Representatives should be a forum of debate with views from one side only.

Accordingly, I propose to establish a procedure using a little known and less

used provision in Standing Orders which regulate debate in Parliament, which enables any person or group having an interest in a matter under debate to make a presentation to Parliament by appearing at the Bar of the House.

Open invitations will be given to any participant wishing to participate in debates on legislation to do so. In practice, when the House resolves itself into Committee as it must do in the passage of any Bill, the public will be invited to comment at this stage.

If the matter under consideration is complex a Select Committee of the House or of the House and Senate will be set up to allow further detailed examination of the measure under debate and participating groups will have the further opportunity to engage in this examination until a product is ready for final approval of Parliament.

In plain language, the whole wide range of talent which this country produces representing the whole wide range of interests which this country has, will be the panel from which capable and expert opposition will be drawn to engage in debate and frame legislation.

VIGOROUS DEBATES

Like the proposed new Senate this will without doubt produce a Parliament of more vigorous high-level debate in the House of Representatives.

Parliament without an elected Opposition is far from dead! It is far more likely to come alive in a dynamic manner attracting greater interest in debate and being truly a forum for the widest cross-section of views than ever before.

And I have no doubt that appearing before the Bar of the Jamaican Parliament will prove more interesting, rewarding, useful and purposeful than any appearance at the bar of the Pegasus Parliament.

Again, making bold use of this little used procedure to openly admit public comments from the Bar of the House will generate a dynamic tradition, begun in our 21st Year of Independence which I believe will never be erased from future parliamentary life for it will give a voice of great strength to the people, a direct channel to communicate with Parliament which public interest groups will never wish to surrender or have retracted or down-graded by any Parliament of the future.

There is, of course, a third role played by an elected Opposition, that of Constituency representation for the people particularly those of opposing Party persuasion.

We have endeavoured moreso than any Government before, to so administer the affairs of Government as not to frustrate supporters of the Opposition with the feeling that they do not belong and must await some other time when their Party can provide.

Indeed, our own supporters are openly critical of this policy because we endeavour to break the strong tradition of partisan feelings to boldly establish a new course, much as we are today charting another new course, which reduced partisan feelings in Parliamentary debate and reduced frustration among those who feel that their voices may never be heard.

NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL

Despite this open policy of non-victimisation, we have not been completely successful, but we have achieved greater success than ever before in reducing tensions and giving hope, and to this end we shall pursue our course without change. Indeed, we must now expand this course — ensuring that the doors are always open for all to reach us.

In keeping with this Jamaica Labour Party offices in constituencies across the land will no longer bear the inscription "JLP Office" but Office of the Member of Parliament — to serve all.

Contact between Members of Parliament and constituents is where all action must begin.

It is a fact however which must be realistically acknowledged that Members of Parliament are never able to be as available to constituents as desired.

To augment the process of access to Members of Parliament, a unit which deals with citizens mail in the Office of the Prime Minister and through which I receive much mail weekly, will be significantly expanded into a Consumer and Public Affairs Bureau to be better able to process matters brought to attention by the public through Members of Parliament who are often only partly informed of the range of contact desired by constituents, leaving frustration among the people in the wake.

I look forward to this outreach programme invigorating constituency

life and generating wider interests and activity among the people.

Having outlined the three mechanisms which offer bold creative thinking to tackle the formidable problem of the absence of an elected Opposition, I think it can be concluded that the success of these new measures could create a new perspective of people representation in quality and quantity — more vigorous, expert led debate, and wider access for representation.

Two further dimensions are necessary in the re-structuring required to meet the exciting challenge of a new parliamentary order.

Firstly, the political directorate must make itself more available to deal with interest groups and people problems.

The Cabinet and Senate will reflect this thinking of reducing where desirable the burdens of the work-load.

I begin with myself in giving up one Ministry, and in recruiting meaningful help in other areas through the Senate.

I will reserve more detailed comments for the occasion of the swearing-in of the Cabinet on Monday morning, save for the general observation that I have been well served and Jamaica has been well served by the out-going Cabinet, for which I thank them for myself and for Jamaica.

SHEARER: A TRUE ALLY

So too am I equally grateful for the special support given to me by my Deputy Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer. He has been a true ally and friend in counsel, a source of strength and guidance.

The final link in this chain of adjustments is the role which I expect members of Parliament to play in the forthcoming period.

The first source of strength of any political system, and the basis of stability of that system lies at the level of constituency representation.

This is the primary purpose for which we are all elected — to give service to our constituents.

And we must never forget that this function, and not higher office, is the real purpose of our role.

Many changes were made in representatives for the December 15 Election, all of whom are now Members of Parliament. Together we will form a

much more vigorous and dynamic group of representatives of the people

In keeping with our understanding of our primary obligation to our constituents, therefore, it is our intention to concentrate the focus of our parliamentary strength on the constituencies, rather than in offices holding positions such as Parliamentary Secretaries and Minister of State — where more time is consumed than in the field with constituents.

The many sheep in constituencies who now find themselves without elected shepherds made it imperative that those who now have the constitutional responsibility and authority to be their legal representatives must so respond to the challenge as to ensure that this unusual period through which we pass is not one of uncertainty and frustration, but of solidarity of purpose, and fraternity of fellowship between members of Parliament and their people.

The time and the nature of the circumstances demand of all of us, as the first order of priority to make service to our people our principal cause.

I commenced this address with the indication that I wished first to deal with political matters.

I turn now briefly to the significant developments that are to be viewed as part of the perspective as we move into 1984.

1983 has proven to be the year in which the great international depression hit us hard reducing our mining sector to a mere projected 7.3 million tonnes of bauxite by comparison with a volume of some 12 million tonnes in 1980 — a cut of almost half!

This robbed us of foreign exchange to import, revenue to finance the budget, and caused much dislocation of our orderly plans.

Yet, although 1983 was a year of deep economic problems, our economy did not collapse. Indeed, projections show that it will grow by more than 1 per cent which is better than 1982. This must be compared with our own grim projections of negative growth in this year which we predicted earlier.

In fact, far from collapsing as many stronger economies have come near to doing, we have done better than we ourselves expected in this year of grave economic problems.

ECONOMY GROWS BY 1%

The manufacturing sector is projected to show a third straight year of positive growth as compared with years of consecutive negative growth preceding 1980.

Exactly the same pattern is evident in the construction sector.

Agriculture this year is rebounding significantly from the decline of last year.

Even Mining had reached the end of the line according to statistics this year, with prospects of a movement upward projected for next year. This has been the one sick sector of the Jamaican economy, but because so much turns on it the decline in this sector has had the effect of pulling the whole economy downwards.

The prospect of recovery here carried healthy signals for the Jamaican economy in 1984, depending on the pace at which this recovery moves.

But tourism is growing at record levels — reaching the three-quarter million mark this year. New hotels are now being planned.

BOLD DESIGNS

And new investments are reaching the stage of implementation at an unprecedented rate at one every three days.

Agro 21 and H.E.A.R.T. are bold designs which will energise the training and employment of labour.

The unemployment rate, by latest count, has fallen below what we inherited in 1980. Agro 21 holds the greatest promise for growth in production and earnings in foreign exchange since the discovery of bauxite in the 1950's.

These are the positives set within the framework of stability and decreasing crime as we enter 1984.

These positives are further enhanced by the improved earnings which will flow from the recent devaluation — in Manufacturing, Agriculture, Tourism, Mining, all providing much greater incentives to grow and produce and to increase foreign exchange earnings and employ more people.

The worst of the negatives already overtook us with an 18.5 per cent increase in the cost of living projected for 1983. But there are still some further increases to come although the

worst has passed, noticeably in fuel and electricity rates.

Price movements and continuing shortfall of foreign exchange until our earning capacity is restored are the two negatives in his instance that we must gear all our resources to meet.

Foreign exchange is not going to appear magically, it must be earned with work, our work, nobody else's and with the right attitude.

The attitudes of 1983 are not those on which we can build recovery in 1984.

Much occurred that was ugly and selfish and some of it has still not been told.

If we are poised to resume recovery in 1984, that recovery must begin from within where the real rehabilitation of soul, conscience and purpose is needed.

The Government will be exacting in its demands for discipline in this new term of office, in urging on citizens greater response to the moral consciousness and to roles of responsibility.

We are poised to enter uncharted water politically but not with trepidation.

We are poised to meet this challenge with bold and creative thinking as I have outlined, generating exciting new political solutions which will no doubt have a bearing on the future even when the normal parliamentary form with Government and Opposition in Parliament is restored.

We are poised to move back again on a path of economic recovery if we will allow ourselves to do so by firmly fixing our purpose on positive goals, national interests, not on the negative targets of selfish gain.

We alone can make ourselves succeed or fail and we have within us that potential for success in which many of the right circumstances prevail.

We close this first term of office with a record which in balance even if a fully contested election would have given us a new mandate to go on.

For the support that we received we are grateful and look forward with eagerness to renewed efforts and partnership in this second term.

To those who perceive that this Election has now served its purpose and who call for a further election at a given date — let me be quite clear:

Any election timetable is a timetable for violence, the experience of which is

already known and grieved from the 700 dead in the nine month General Election timetable of 1980.

NO ELECTION TIMETABLE

I do not propose to repeat any such programme. Whenever elections are called they will come upon us like Nicodemus in the night.

I must make myself clear on a further point. Those who indulge in Opposition Parties which boycott elections with the expectation that this will precipitate new elections when they are ready are indulging in a dangerous pattern which if accepted would enable the Opposition and not the Government to call Elections in the future.

Such a course defies the principles on which our Constitution rest which expressly provides that the Prime Minister is given the unqualified right to dissolve the House and call General Elections in his discretion. This is not a right given to the Opposition or anyone else and the framers of our Constitution in 1961, of which I have the honour to be one, had good reason to so empower the Prime Minister with this right.

I remembered clearly the arguments and have researched the Hansard to find a passage most eloquently descriptive of this power as set out in these words of a Speaker in presentation of the Debate in Parliament, from whose words I quote:

"As I pointed out, the Constitution entrenches the regularity of sittings of Parliament, and the Constitution does something else. It vests in the Prime Minister the power of dissolving the house when he thinks fit, and it vests this power in him, more firmly and unquestionably than it is done in any other modern constitution. For we were concerned to see that once the government is elected, the Prime Minister should not be exposed to manoeuvres to shift power within the House, which could almost result in a sort of traffic and trade across the floor of

"The House (hear, hear).

The Prime Minister will hold one very effective power, once he is put into power by the people who have put him in power. If anybody wants to subvert his authority and upset him, he can say, "very well: we will go to the public of the country and have an election." There are lots of arguments both sides and all around, but as I see it, This is a

great safeguard. No other Constitution that I know of in this world has done it and done it in the way that

"we have done it. It is an entirely novel way."

These words were spoken by our National Hero, Rt. Excellent Norman Washington Manley who was himself the Chairman of the Constitutional Committee.

When the arguments die as they will, however they may be settled, we shall all be left with the inescapable duties of fulfilling the role of building a nation from what we have and with what we have, with some help and without help, with courage or timidity, integrity or discredit, dedication or selfishness.

We must always remember that in all we do somewhere someone sits in judgment to discourage or encourage us so that we fail or prevail.

Let us each resolve to give our best in achievement with excellence, in serv-

ice to the cause, with responsibility and integrity, courage and dedication.

I can say this no better than in the eloquent words of the late President John F. Kennedy, in an address to the Massachusetts State Legislature in 1961 when he spoke for all of us who must give account.

"For of those to whom much is given, much is required. And when at some future date the High Court of History sits in judgment on each of us, recording whether in our brief span of service we fulfilled our responsibilities to the State, our success or failure, in whatever office we hold, will be measured by the answers to four questions: first, were we truly men of courage; second, were we truly men of judgment; third, were we truly men of integrity; finally, were we truly men of dedication?"

REPORTAGE ON ELECTION-RELATED DEVELOPMENT, NEW CABINET

Election-Day Events

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Dec 83 p 16

[Text]

Here are two reports of how the day passed in the two Corporate Area Constituencies in which there was voting:

Voting in West-Rural St. Andrew yesterday was uneventful, and ended in a low poll in most of the 141 polling divisions. Some 6,448 votes were cast or 26.87 percent of the 24,000 electors appearing on the voters' list.

Dr. **Mavis Gilmour**, of the JLP, the sitting candidate, received 6,250 votes or about a half of what she polled in the 1980 elections. Then, she received 11,961 votes. Her opponent, Mr. **Clive Smith** of the Republican Party, received 198 votes.

Not a single incident was reported by the police, who told the **Gleaner** that throughout the day everything "remained quiet".

When the preliminary counting was concluded by the Returning Officer, Mr. **Dennis Phipps** at the Stony Hill Police Station shortly after 8 o'clock last night, supporters of Dr. Gilmour went wild, cheering, singing and ringing bells.

In an interview with the **Gleaner** immediately after the results were known, Dr. Gilmour said she believed she had fared "reasonably", when it was considered that she had received more than 50 percent of the votes she polled in 1980.

She expressed surprise that her opponent, Mr. **Clive Smith**, had received 198 votes, "for he had not even properly introduced himself to the electors".

Asked about the absence of a Parliamentary Opposition, she said:

"You can depend on us. Democracy is very much alive in Jamaica and is going to stay alive, for we are going to make the effort to keep it alive.

"We do not have a one-party State. We have a multi-party State in which many parties are free to contest. At present, one party has all the seats because of the default of the major opposition party...

"If Mr. Manley had decided to contest the election, he may well have won 20 seats in the Parliament; and that would be no disappointment to me or any other member of the J.L.P.

"Our own feeling is that he would have contested the election and then settled his grievances after. It was not fair to gamble the electoral rights of the people against the dissatisfaction that he had with any single factor".

Dr. Gilmour was winning the seat in her constituency for the third time.

Mr. Smith did not turn up at the counting centre last night.

KINGSTON SEAT

Mr. **Derrick Smith**, JLP candidate for West Central Kingston, became Member of Parliament for the constituency as 4,716 votes were polled for him yesterday based on a preliminary count at the Kingston Secondary School.

His opponent, Mr. **V.G. Smith**, lost with a vote count of 54 with 110 of 111 boxes counted. The key for the uncounted box could not be found.

There are 10,810 voters on the 1980 Voters List used in yesterday's election. In the last General Elections, Mr. **Ralph Brown**, of the PNP, won with 5,361 while Mr. **Ivan Moore** of the

JLP lost to him by 3,803 votes. Total votes cast amounted to 44.1 per cent.

Mr. Derrick Smith's victory therefore represents an increase of 913 votes, though he garnered less than 50 per cent of the total number of electors.

The voter turn-out was down to a mere trickle in the morning and this continued throughout most of the day. However, it gained momentum in some key polling divisions said to be in JLP strongholds in the late afternoon.

The day was incident free, a situation which is not typical of the constituency in General Elections held previously.

There was one slight disturbance. At the Kingston Secondary School polling station, a man went to one polling booth at 4.41 p.m. and told the poll staff to cease operation. Somehow, they obeyed. Nobody was coming to vote at the time.

The news spread throughout the other booths that polling must stop and ballot boxes closed. A woman who appeared to be experienced in Election Day proceedings, expressed alarm that the station was being closed before the end of the day at 5.00 p.m.

A policeman who was at the entrance to the polling station saw what was happening and advised the poll staff, who had already packed up their materials, that the correct time to close was 5.00 p.m. He asked who gave the instructions.

Someone pointed to the man who had caused the mischief. The police chased him off the compound and everything was back to normal. In fact number of voters had been standing outside, waiting to vote. The following report was filed by the *Gleaner* correspondent in the area:

Voters of South-East St. Ann experienced a calm and peaceful day of voting in all of its 109 polling divisions.

The day started with a low voter turn-out and relatively little political activity in almost the entire constituency, with the exception of Claremont, one of the chief towns in this constituency, where there was obvious political activity, but the situation still remained calm.

One polling station, Number 3c, situated in Grierfield in the Moneague area, did not open to the public until about 9 a.m. due to the fact that no agents of candidates were present when the Presiding Officers went there.

Up to mid-day, average voter turn-out in most polling division was low, generally in the region of 12 per cent. Overall, there was a higher turn-out in the farming areas than in the residential areas of this constituency.

There were regular police patrols throughout the day.

'Bogus Voting' Charge

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Dec 83 p 14

[Text]

A charge of bogus voting in the West Central Kingston constituency in Thursday's general election, made by the People's National Party in a statement yesterday, was repudiated last night by the Jamaica Labour Party.

The PNP statement, issued by its president, Mr. Michael Manley, referred to the result in West Central Kingston "where bogus voting is already admitted by the JLP to have taken place."

Asked by the *Gleaner* for a response to this statement, a top spokesman for the JLP said that

the Party had not admitted that bogus voting had taken place in the constituency.

"What happened was that a reference was made on Thursday night during the victory celebrations that one box in West Central Kingston had shown three more votes than were on the list.

"But yesterday morning when the final count began, it was found not to have been so. It was a mistake in the addition."

Contacted by the *Gleaner*, Mr. Frank Weir, Deputy Director of Elections said:

"We can never know anything or determine anything factually as to whether bogus voting took place until the final count is finished. And the final count began only today."

Asked whether the Returning Officer would know, Mr. Weir said that unless the Returning Officer had caught an elector in the act of impersonating, he would not know either. Only the final count would indicate whether bogus voting did, in fact take place.

The PNP statement also made the comment that "in spite of heavy campaigning by the JLP in

the six constituencies where elections were held, the preliminary count shows that they failed to persuade even 60 per cent of the people who voted for them in 1980 to turn out and do so yesterday.

"This is the clearest evidence that the people as a whole have rejected both the election and the Government itself.

"The extent of the rejection of the JLP is further underlined by the fact that less than 40 per cent of the electorate, taking the six constituencies together, have recorded a vote."

Union Objection to Ministers

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] A suggestion that two members of the former Cabinet line-up, Mr. J. A. G. Smith and Mr. Douglas Vaz, should not be re-appointed to the new Cabinet to be announced, has been made by the National Workers' Union.

In a message to Prime Minister Edward Seaga, the Island Supervisor of the National Workers' Union, Mr. Lascelles Perry, said it would be a disaster to again put Mr. Smith in charge of the portfolio of Labour and Mr. Vaz, of Industry.

He also said that the portfolios of Mining and Finance should be given up by the Prime Minister.

Seaga on Cabinet Considerations

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Dec 83 pp 1, 15

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER The Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga announced the appointment of the 16-member Cabinet sworn in by the Governor-General, the Most Hon. Florizel Glasspole, yesterday at King's House.

The main features of the new Cabinet are the appointment of Mr. Hugh Hart as Senator and Minister of Mining and Energy; Mr. Edmund Bartlett as Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Development; Dr. Ronald Irvine as Minister of Environment, Science and Technology; and Mr. Alva Ross, Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the status of a Cabinet Minister.

In other shifts, Mr. Errol Anderson has been given the post of Minister of the Public Service and Social Security; and Mr. Neville Lewis is the new Minister of Local Government. The other Ministers have been re-appointed to their former posts.

Mr. Seaga has retained the office of Prime Minister, and the Ministries of Finance and Planning, Information and Culture.

Speaking after the new Cabinet Ministers had taken the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Office, and had been issued with the Instrument of Authority, Mr. Seaga said that the outgoing Cabinet had been comprised of 15 Ministers, none of whom had prior experience of Cabinet Government other than the Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, the Speaker, the Hon. Alva Ross and himself.

He said that it was a matter of "deep gratification" to see the extent to which the Ministers had adapted to their roles in a mature fashion. They were "a very dynamic team" and he did not know of a member who had not pulled his weight and "performed beyond the call of duty".

"It was a team which I was very pleased to work with," he said.

The Prime Minister said that he would announce the appointments of Ministers of State and Parliamentary Secretaries later this week.

Next week, he said, the additional Government Senators would be named, along with the eight non-partisan Senators.

GIVING A RUNDOWN on the new appointments, Mr. Seaga said that under Dr. Irvine's Ministry would fall the Scientific Research Council, the

Bureau of Standards, the National Resource Conservation Department, and the Food Technology Unit.

Dr. Irvine had been working on the development of the National Science Policy so that he was not coming into the field "brand new". Dr. Irvine had also been reappointed Senator, as he had just completed 21 years of service in the Senate, a record which the Prime Minister said he doubted would be equalled.

Mr. Seaga said Dr. Irvine had relinquished the Ministry of Mining and Energy to Mr. Hart, who had been carrying the work-load and was of invaluable service to the Government.

Not a stranger to this area, Mr. Hart had, in his capacity as advisor to the Prime Minister, developed the concepts of barter and counter-trade, something which had earned him the confidence of other members of the Cabinet.

Mr. Seaga said that he had selected Mr. Bartlett as Minister of Youth and Community Development and Sports because he had performed "creditably" in Cultural Affairs with a national flair for promotion and organisation.

At the same time, the Ministry had been restructured and "given a solid foundation" on which Mr. Bartlett could work.

Mr. Seaga listed the 200 Community Centres that had been repaired, the development of a National Craft Programme and Youth Camps islandwide to be upgraded to H.E.A.R.T. academies as areas where the former Minister, Mr. Errol Anderson, had served.

Mr. Anderson's work in the Ministry of Youth had earned him his appointment as Minister of the Public Service and Social Security.

Mr. Seaga said that the Public Service Ministry would play a key role in the Government's expenditure, the implementation of the Management Audit for the public sector and data-gathering on the state of the sector, coupled with the enactment of laws to give reward for service and more stringent sanctions for poor work done.

Mr. J.A.G. Smith would relinquish the responsibility for Electoral Affairs to

pay more attention to the Ministry of Labour and the duty of Leader of Government Business in the House of Representatives, because of increased responsibility that would result in the new parliamentary situation.

The position of Speaker of the House would be raised to the rank of a member of the Cabinet without sitting in Cabinet meetings. Speaking of Mr. Ross in his new capacity, the Prime Minister said he would fine it necessary to travel abroad to explain the new parliamentary situation to Jamaicans.

Mr. Neville Lewis has shown himself to be "a very capable administrator", particularly in the area of "people problems" and had earned the respect of all.

Of the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Seaga said Mr. Shearer had been an invaluable counsellor and guide to him and would hold his present post. Jamaica was at the centre of a wide range of extending international relations from Latin America to the West to the Soviet bloc.

Following the swearing-in of the Ministers, the Governor-General, who also spoke, said that there was nothing but hard work ahead of the Cabinet; it was not going to be an easy task to get Jamaica on the upward swing.

Mr. Glasspole said humanity and dedication had to be shown during the task while at the same time the Ministers must be firm when it came to discipline.

He congratulated Mr. Seaga for appointing Messrs. Bartlett and Hart, whom he said were "very good selections".

Wishing the team "happy hunting", Sir Florizel said that Jamaica wanted a dynamic thrust forward so that the people could feel that things were moving upward.

"We are certainly looking for the determination of these gentlemen and lady to see things moving. We want our little Jamaica to be a happy country, with the economy growing and unemployment wiped out steadily. We want to see people in a state of mind that they're contented," he declared.

Statistical Analysis

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Dec 83 p 15

[Text]

The December 1983 Stone Poll revealed that the issues surrounding the calling of a snap election by the JLP government have generated a significant increase in the relative standing of the PNP, especially among younger voters.

Within the electorate as a whole the PNP's standing has moved from 47% to 55% of the popular vote since late October when the events in Grenada pushed the JLP ahead of the PNP in the polls.

PNP support within the electorate as a whole has grown more as a result of a decline in support for the JLP than as a consequence of increased levels of popularity of the PNP. Much of the JLP support lost since October has shifted towards apathy and lack of interest in voting as many of these persons are disillusioned with the PNP leaders and especially the party's position on Cuba and ties with communists. This support could well return to the JLP in the future.

The most significant change since October therefore has been the decline of the JLP level of support and the increase in the level of uncommitted voters which now stands at the rather high level of 29%. This level is approximately 100% higher than the levels found in polls leading up to the December 1980 election.

If the PNP had contested the election some 71% of the persons interviewed would have been interested in voting but many would not have been able to vote.

In December 1980, 84% of the persons interviewed expressed interest in voting.

Among persons who had a vote in 1980, the JLP has a small majority over the PNP with a standing of 50.6% compared to 49.4% for the PNP. The difference in party standings between 1980 voters and persons 18 and over who have been registered to vote is due to the large 60% PNP standing among younger voters who are not on the 1980 voters list.

By the estimate of this December 1983 Stone Poll, had the PNP contested the election on December 15th, that party would have earned at least 49% of the vote and somewhere between 24 and 28 parliamentary seats. This would have meant a substantial reduction of the JLP seat majority in the parliament from 51 to 32-36 seats.

An election held on the new voters list would in our estimation give a majority to the PNP due to that party's preponderant support among younger voters.

Support for the WPJ poses a puzzle. While there has been no reduction of persons with far left marxist

views in the society, WPJ support seems to be declining. This apparent decline is quite misleading. What appears to be the case is that fewer of these persons are willing to openly indicate support for the WPJ, perhaps out of fear of political reprisals. Within the ranks of the independents, there appears to be some 3% of the electorate whose political views are hostile to both JLP and PNP and are inclined towards the WPJ.

The dramatic growth of uncommitted from 19% to 29% between late October and early December reflects the dual impact of loss of PNP support due to developments in Grenada and loss of JLP support caused by the party's handling of the election issue. These voters have come to distrust both JLP and PNP leaders but do not see the WPJ as an alternative. Whether they drift back to either the JLP or the PNP in the future will have great impact on the balance of political support in the country when next election are called and contested by both parties.

Those voters who support the PNP see that party as defending poor people and the youth and likely to promote more public spending than the JLP. Those who support the JLP see the JLP leaders as promoting better economic policies than the PNP and as having more international support that can help the country recover.

QUESTIONS: Which party did you vote for in 1980? If the PNP had decided to contest the election on December 15th, which party would you have voted for? Why?

ANSWERS: Among 1980 voters

JLP (50.6%) (PNP 49.4%)

Among all persons interviewed

JLP (45%) PNP (55%)

Comparison with earlier polls

	PNP	WPJ	JLP	Uncommitted
October 1980	37%	•	50%	13%
February 1981	29%	•	46%	25%
May 1981	20%	•	48%	30%
July 1981	32%	•	36%	31%
November 1981	30%	2%	36%	31%
May 1982	34%	.6%	41%	24%
October 1982	43%	.9%	38%	19%
March 1983	41%	1%	38%	20%
October 1983	38%	.5%	43%	19%
December 1983	39%	.3	32%	29%

SECURITY PRECAUTIONS HEIGHTEN; RAID ON WPJ PROTESTED

Spending on Facilities

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Dec 83 pp 1, 16

[Text]

The Ministry of National Security and Justice spent some \$60.8 million in the last three years constructing and upgrading facilities under its responsibility, compared to \$12-million expended during the period 1977 to 1980.

This was said by the Minister of National Security and Justice Hon. **Winston Spaulding**, on December 8 when he broke ground for the upgrading and extension of the Springmount Police Station in St. James.

The Springmount upgrading is to be done in two phases. Phase I entails repairs to the existing structure at a cost of \$40,000; Phase II is to provide a two-storey extension for dormitory and court-house facilities costing \$80,000.

The contract has been awarded to Mr. **Herbert Williams** and the architect is Mr. **Robert Stevens**, of the Urban Development Corporation.

The Minister also announced that a Bill is shortly to be laid in Parliament seeking to increase the Jurisdiction of Resident Magistrates Courts to try civil cases.

Mr. Spaulding said that the residents of St. James should realise that with the large expenditure by his Ministry, over the past three years, "this parish has benefited immensely by way of facilities, and would continue to do so".

Outlining some of the areas tackled, he said that during 1981-82 work at a cost of \$250,000 was done to the Barnett Street police headquarters, as well as on

police stations at Montego Inn, Mount Salem and Cambridge.

In 1982-83, the Sewell Avenue, Orange Street, Coral Gardens, Granville, Anchovy, Barrett Town and Barnett Street police stations and offices underwent upgrading and repairs costing \$150,000, and \$117,910 was spent on court-houses in St. James.

Disclosing other plans for St. James, Mr. Spaulding said that a new police station is to be built at Barrett Town for which approval has already been given.

Plans to upgrade the Adelphi and Amity Hall police stations were currently being put together by the Urban Development Corporation and would come under the next Capital Budget. It was expected that the Adelphi station would be upgraded at a cost of approximately \$500,000.

Referring to the tourist industry, Mr. Spaulding said he would do everything in his power, along with the Security Forces, to see that there was no disruption "in this vital and important sector of the economy".

He praised the Ministry of Tourism for reviving the industry and said that it was notable that, this year, a record figure in tourist arrivals would be achieved.

Present at the function were the Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. **Kenneth Baugh**; the Minister of State for Tourism, Hon. Dr. **Marco Brown**; Mr. **Carl Rhoden**, M.P.; Mayor **Shallman Scott**, of Montego Bay; Chief of Planning Ministry of National Security and Justice, Mrs. **Ethlyn Samuels**; and the Director of Planning Research and Development, Ministry of National Security and Justice, Mr. **Cyril Redway**.

WPJ Reaction to Raid

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Dec 83 p 14

[Text] Police raided the headquarters of the Workers' Party of Jamaica (WPJ) at 50 Lady Musgrave Road, St. Andrew, yesterday afternoon.

Nothing incriminating was found, police and WPJ sources told the GLEANER yesterday afternoon.

The General Secretary of the WPJ, Dr. Trevor Munroe, in a news conference called after the raid said it had sinister intent, and he hoped the security forces would act with restraint and within the law.

He re-stated what he said was his party's position that they had no subversive intent.

Dr. Munroe said the police during the raid had asked the names, addresses and functions of persons in the Party's office, and outside, and he saw this as "sinister".

WPJ-Bank Heist Link

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

Investigations into the abduction-robbery of more than \$1 million from the Highgate branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia early Friday morning were taken a step further Saturday, the police said, when they detained several persons.

A statement issued by the Police Information Centre said raids have been carried out on several premises including the headquarters of the Workers' Party of Jamaica, 50 Lady Musgrave Road, Kingston. Nothing was found at the WPJ's headquarters, PIC said.

In one raid the police said they found the following in possession of the occupant: a .45 calibre semi-

automatic pistol, a .38 calibre revolver, 69 cartridges for .45 calibre and .38 calibre firearms, several lengths of detonator cord, a detonator cap and several thousand dollars.

At another premises, police seized a white Lada car owned by the occupant and which, it is suspected, was used in the robbery. The owner was detained for questioning. A quantity of ganja was also found and two persons including the owner of the car, were arrested. The names and addresses of those detained are being withheld while investigations continue.

WPJ Protest

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Dec 83 p 11A

[Text]

The Workers Party of Jamaica said yesterday it was protesting what it described as "breach of our rights and the rights of citizens" under the Jamaican Constitution, following on the detention of Party member Mrs. **Linnette Vassell**, senior manager at the office of

the National Savings Committee.

This was the second time in four days that Mrs. Vassell was detained along with a Party worker, Mr. **Howard McDonald**, who was taken from his home on Saturday last. Both of whom had been held "incommunicado" by the Security Forces, according to the WPJ's general secretary, Dr. **Trevor Munroe**.

Both persons are being held for questioning in

connection with a \$1 million bank robbery in St. Mary last week, in which a white Lada motor car figured. Mrs. Vassell owns a white Lada car.

At a press briefing yesterday, Dr. Munroe said that a dual raid had been carried out on the WPJ's headquarters and Mrs. Vassell's home last Friday. The police took the names and addresses of party members present at the party office, he said.

During the course of the raid on Mrs. Vassell's home, two "sticks" of ganja were alleged to have been found by the Police for which she had been charged. She was detained, locked up and later released on bail the day after, he said. Mr. Vassell her husband, was also held and released.

However, yesterday morning the Police arrived at Mrs. Vassell's home again, saying that they

wanted to question her further, despite an earlier three hours of interrogation in which the Police expressed satisfaction with her answers, Dr. Munroe said.

On the instructions of the Party, she agreed to co-operate and her attorneys who arrived later at her Dewsbury Avenue home, in the St. Andrew suburbs, were advised that she would be questioned at the offices of Supt. Richards at 9.00 a.m. yesterday.

Dr. Munroe said that from that time yesterday

the police had failed to tell of Mrs. Vassell's whereabouts, and how she was being held. Mr. McDonald who had been employed to "Projects for People" could not be found from Thursday night after enquiries at several police stations in Kingston by his attorneys.

He said that it was not the policy of the WPJ to tolerate the breaking of laws as its activities were based on the Party's widely-published policy. Any member found in anti-social conduct would be disciplined to the point of expulsion.

Dr. Munroe added that he would be writing to the Commissioner of Police outlining what he saw as "the new Central American development" in the Force. He said that the Party would remain within the law but pursue vigorous opposition to the Government and its policies.

Police sources said last night that they did not know about the latest detention of Mrs. Vassell; nor did they know about Mr. McDonald's whereabouts.

An effort was made to contact the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Joe Wil-

liams, but he was not in office. Deputy Commissioner **Herman Ricketts** said Supt. **Roy Green** of the Criminal Investigation Bureau should be contacted. The telephone at CIB rang several times and, at intervals, a male voice said no one was in office, and hung up.

Finally, after several more calls, the male voice at the other end of 92-23710, said CIB "could not give any information now" on Mrs. Vassell and Mr. McDonald. He said the **Gleaner** should call back today.

Negril Reinforcement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Dec 83 p 11A

[Text]

With the 1983-84 winter tourist season only a few days old the police security in the tourist mecca of Negril has been beefed up with the deployment yesterday of additional policemen and a senior officer to the area.

Assistant Commissioner **A.B. Atkinson** in charge

of Area 1 told the **Gleaner** yesterday that some fifteen police officers have been deployed to take up duty in Negril. The group will be concentrating on beat duties, particularly around the beach front and will be under the direct supervision of Dep-

uty Superintendent **McKillop** who has been transferred from Montego Bay for the purpose.

Since the start of the season there has been some report of violence in that area. Commissioner **Atkinson** confirms reports that a German tourist was

chased along the beach one evening, while a guard at a hotel was shot at by three gunmen over the weekend.

It was against such background that all steps were being taken to provide adequate security for the tourist resort.

Christmas Measures

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

The Police High Command has launched a massive islandwide security drive for the Yuletide season and afterwards called "Operation Reassurance", under the direction of the Police Commissioner **Joseph Williams**.

Mr. Williams said in an interview with the **Gleaner** on Friday that the drive involved the re-deployment of an extra 200 policemen from the Police Training School, as well as other auxiliaries of the Force who have been detailed in some 34 shopping plazas on beat patrols.

These policemen had been equipped with radios hooked up to Police Control at his headquarters. Patrol radio cars and personnel had also been increased and would be cruising residential areas which normally be deserted while shoppers go on their spree.

Traffic police will also step up their road safety precautions at key points in the Corporate Area and busy rural townships.

Car parks will gain added attention in the whole exercise. Strict security measures will also be mounted at churches during the traditional Christmas services.

"We'll be firm and at the same time hold strain. We're not going to allow rascals to capitalise on the increased movements of citizens this season," he said.

However, the Police Commissioner said extra care would be taken in apprehending suspected persons or those involved in criminal activities.

Crime detectors in plain clothes from the Criminal Investigation Bureau will be mingling with shoppers to check planned robberies, he told the **Gleaner**.

"Operation Reassurance" had been launched to reassure citizens that they would be safe during and after the festive season because, usually, at this time of the year they tended to be lax, he added."

MANLEY GIVES ASSURANCES PNP WILL NOT FOMENT STRIKE ACTION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Dec 83 p 16

[Text]

People's National Party leader, Mr. Michael Manley, has told trade union leaders that the party would not seek to undermine them by encouraging workers to take unnecessary industrial action. He also told the heads of the bauxite companies that the party would not seek to disrupt activities at their plants.

He said, however, that if the Government attempted to interfere with the Jamaican Constitution, the PNP would have to react.

Mr. Manley met with the trade unions on Sunday, December 11, and with the bauxite companies on the following day, as part of the PNP's series of meetings with various bodies and interest groups explaining the reasons behind the party's decision not to contest the snap general elections. He also explained methods the PNP proposes to use to "protect the Constitutional rights and freedoms of the Jamaican people".

CSO: 3298/333

SEAGA SEES SIGNS OF HEALTHY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Dec 83 pp 1, 19

[Text] Jamaica's economy is expected to grow by 1.1 per cent this year, exceeding the projected minus 3 per cent growth, according to Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga.

The Prime Minister who was speaking to members of the local and foreign press Corps at his annual Christmas luncheon at Jamaica House, said that agriculture was projected to move from a minus 6.7 per cent of 1982 to a plus 5.1 per cent positive growth.

He said that the statistics were based on a mid-fiscal year review, and were for calendar year 1983.

Manufacturing has recorded three consecutive years of positive growth since 1980. Projection for growth in that sector this year was 3.7 per cent.

Construction also grew this year by 4.3 per cent, following two consecutive years of growth. The sector, he said went down to 60.2 per cent negative growth between 1972 to 1980, settling at minus 10 per cent for that year. Mr. Seaga said that mining and quarrying, the key to the pace of economic recovery, experienced a decline of minus 1.0 per cent, after a 29 per cent decline in 1982. Bauxite production fell from 12.2 million tonnes in 1980 to 7.3 million tonnes in 1983 with a corresponding decline of foreign exchange and tax revenue.

Tourism grew as visitors moved from 552,000 in 1982, to a projected 784,000 in calendar year 1983.

Gross capital formation, moving from an annual growth rate of 7.6 per cent up to 1980, rose consecutively from 1981 to 1983 to 38 per cent, 21 per cent and 15.6 per cent, respectively. New private investments were implemented on a basis of one new project every three to four days, Mr. Seaga said.

There were some 427 projects with a value of \$1.3 billion; 69 had been put into production, 64 projects were being finalised, 142 were in active discussion, while 152 were in the preliminary stages of negotiation. The total figure, he said, did not include some 170 projects already implemented.

On the negative side, Mr. Seaga said there had been a continuous deterioration in the net official reserve which declined to minus US\$560 million this year, from minus US\$401 million in 1980.

The Prime Minister who is also Minister of Finance said that the 1983/84 deficit was projected to be out of target of 19 per cent for the calendar year; however, he thought that this would be down to 13 per cent at the end of a fiscal year, but outside of the target of 12.5 per cent set by the IMF.

In April this year the figure showed that unemployment which was at 27.3 per cent in 1980 had been reduced to 26.1 per cent, he said. Inflation had been cut to 4.8 per cent in 1981, to 7 per cent in 1982, but would be 18.5 per cent, projected for this year.

Industrial relations worsened in 1981 but there was an improvement in the climate for 1982, while the reading for this year was not yet completed.

Crime and violence, Mr. Seaga said declined by 9.5 per cent in 1981, 14.4 per cent in 1982 and a further decrease was expected for this year.

Summing up the statistics, he said that there had been a continuous degree of positive growth in 1981 as distinct from the 1980 period. This growth was projected in all sectors except mining. He said that it was fair to expect positive growth in the mining sector next year as a result of the upturn in the aluminium market.

Mr. Seaga told the newsmen that he was looking forward to a recovery in the economy but that the pace was dependent on the expected recovery in the mining sector.

Recovery of the economy for 1984, he noted, was not in the hands of the gods but "in the hands of the industrialised world." Unless the local bauxite firms competed in world terms, there was little hope that a significant recovery would occur in the mining sector, he said.

"There is less capacity than there is demand and consequently prices are rising," he added. The new bauxite levy was structured to give the companies the incentives for production competitiveness, Mr. Seaga said.

He pointed to the turnaround in the construction, manufacturing and tourism sectors which he said was vibrant. The liberalisation of trade to follow in the new devaluation measures, would add impetus to the manufacturing sector.

Apparently referring to a GLEANER story that Christmas shopping was low-keyed, Mr. Seaga said that he was "very heartened" that this year the consumers had reached the threshold of tolerance and caught up with the appetite of the producers by shopping around for the best prices and goods and not being satisfied with a one-stop purchase, regardless of price.

He described this year as a "watershed" for the consumers with the new measures in place and he was glad that "we've reached this stage."

The Government could not have devalued the dollar earlier this year because there was a need to see the levels where the exchange rates would level off. He said that there could be no further devaluations of the dollar as it was now on a floating basis in common with several currencies such as the European and the U.S.

Touching briefly on the importation of motor vehicles, he said that the country was importing 12,000 cars per year, less than the 16,000 a year in 1962. During the 70s the importation of cars had gone down to a disastrous level of between 4,000 to 5,000 a year, resulting in depletion of the nation's rolling stock.

Mr. Seaga said that the country had not been able to produce the foreign exchange required so that there was a need to borrow to procure resources for basic needs. He added that the manufacturing sector, traditionally dependent on Caricom earnings but which was now seeking to explore third country markets, must not be looked to as a short term earner of foreign exchange--but rather the focus would be on the mining sector and Agro 21.

On the impending increase in petroleum prices, he said, this would not flow from the recent devaluation because it was now being computed at \$2.85 which was not a far way from \$3.15. Instead, increases in oil price would flow from recent hikes by Mexico and Venezuela which had not been passed on to the consumer.

On the new standby agreement with the IMF, Mr. Seaga said that a formal agreement would not be reached today as was expected. However, an understanding had been reached on all major areas and the negotiations would continue into 1984.

The new package had been sent to the IMF's managing director, Mr. Jacques Larosier, for his approval. The Jamaican team, he said, anticipated no problem. He said also that the package would go before the IMF's governing council in February.

The national minimum wage which had received full attention from the Government this year, would be examined in 1984, he said.

CSO: 3298/334

SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION HEAD: ECONOMIC MEASURES WON'T HELP

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Dec 83 p 18

[Text]

The economic measures announced in November by Prime Minister Edward Seaga, are not going to improve the lot of the small business sector by any significant margin, according to the President of the Small Businesses Association of Jamaica, Mr. Adolph Brown. He said that the sector has now been pitted fully alongside the larger businesses and all the resilience from the SBAJ members will now be needed for economic survival.

Mr. Brown made these observations as he addressed the first meeting of the Small Businesses Association of Montego Bay, at the Wexford Court Hotel on Thursday December 8.

Speaking to almost one hundred businessmen attending the meeting of the Montego Bay branch of the Association, Mr. Brown said the current political stalemate is unfortunate as it does not augur well for the economic development of the country, dependent as it is on foreign investment.

Mr. Brown expressed concern that government was not doing enough for the small business sector but was concentrating more on the larger and more established businesses. He said a number of international agencies have also expressed this concern.

The SBA President told the businessmen that any

body doing business in Jamaica today would be able to go elsewhere and be more successful. He said the larger businesses were able to survive the present foreign exchange shortage because they were more involved in trading, but he noted that the small businessman could not afford to buy the U.S. dollar at \$4 Jamaican and produce a product which could be sold at a competitive price on the local or foreign market.

The SBAJ President said that there has been no policy on small businesses and he added that the Association had in fact prepared and submitted a paper to government on the sector, but to date has had no response on this.

Outlining the many problems facing the Association, Mr. Brown warned that the entire garment sector was dying because there are no allowances for them to export under the

recently announced Caribbean Basin Initiative, while larger companies were being given the opportunity to import and sell locally.

And speaking at a press conference called on Friday December 9, by the Montego Bay branch of the SBAJ, Mr. Brown told the press that at a recent conference on the Caribbean held in Miami, several investors had expressed interest in investing in Jamaica. However, he noted, many were concerned about the apparent introduction of a one-party system in the island and had reservations about investing here.

In response to questions from the press, Mr. Brown said the Small Businesses Association of Jamaica would join the Jamaica Council of Churches in calling for another election as soon as the new voters list is completed in order

that economic development could take place in a climate free of political tensions.

The new Montego Bay branch of the SBAJ will serve the needs of businessmen in western Jamaica. The branch now has over 50 paid up members and the response, according to the Chairman of SBAJ, Montego Bay, Mr. Pete Cohen, had been extremely encouraging as several other businessmen have expressed their willingness to join the Association to deal with the problems of the small business sector.

Prior to the official launching ceremony, members of the Montego Bay Steering Committee and Executive officers of the Kingston offices paid courtesy calls on the Custos and the Deputy Mayor of Montego Bay, Berlin Thompson. The SBAJ officials also visited businessmen in the town.

BAUXITE EARNINGS, STATUS OF LEVY TALKS REPORTED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

Net earnings from the bauxite industry for this year is estimated at S.U.S.230 million compared to \$285 million last year, it was disclosed yesterday.

The executive director of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, J.B.I. Dr. **Carlton Davis** made the disclosure at a press conference at the J.B.I.'s office at Hope Pastures, St. Andrew, called by the new Minister of Mining and Energy the Hon. **Hugh Hart**.

Former chairman of the J.B.I., Mr. Hart gave an update on the bauxite levy negotiations taking place with the five North American aluminum companies.

In giving figures on bauxite earnings, Dr. Davis referred to the error which he said was being made that the tourist industry had overtaken the bauxite industry as the leading net earner of foreign exchange.

On the levy negotiations, Mr. Hart said that certain proposals which were made on Monday by the local negotiating team sought to protect the revenue of the Government in situations where production remained at low levels or was not increasing.

The proposals would continue the concept of offering incentives but would improve on the 1979 approach which had been proven to lack impact and had not seen production capacity being restored. That concept, he said, had a flaw which allowed the companies to adjust production rates to market conditions without suffering the penalties.

The new proposals embodying fresh incentives would seek to have the base levy calculated on the same basis but not necessarily on the same levels, Mr. Hart said.

The proposals which were discussed yesterday between the parties would seek to attract foreign inflows not only by way of projects or expansion but also in the area of energy conservation.

Energy conservation, Mr. Hart said, with support from Dr. Davis, was one of the important necessities which had to be addressed if the bauxite companies were to be competitive. Mr. Hart pointed to the use of coal as one such means of energy savings.

The companies would require a little time to assimilate the proposals and make their calculations. They were however aware that it was hoped that negotiations would be concluded next month.

Striking a guarded note of optimism, Mr. Hart indicated that feeling among the companies was that the concept surrounding the proposals were "constructive, imaginative and along the right line..."

The negotiations began around July.

Mr. Hart used the opportunity to express thanks to the staff of the J.B.I., and others for their support in the past.

CLARENDON PROJECTS PROMISE NEW PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT

Vegetable Growing

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

A 600-acre winter vegetable growing and export project is being carried out at Spring Plain Farm in Clarendon under AGRO-21 which will earn an estimated US\$4 million in foreign exchange and provide employment for a large number of persons.

Production will be geared to take advantage of the duty free provisions of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

The crops to be produced include tomatoes, green peppers, cucumbers melons and okras.

Seedlings for the project will be produced for a nursery which has been established at St. Jago estate, next to Spring Farm.

The project will employ 200 skilled agricultural workers on a regular basis while employment during period of harvesting will be approximately 1,200 persons.

The project is a joint venture by the Jamaica Agro Products and the Jamaica National Investment Company (JNIC).

A pilot project which was established last year October on 180 acres at the Spring Plain Farm was

successful and served to generate interest in vegetable farming particularly among small farmers in the area.

In addition the pilot project provided employment for 150 workers on a regular basis and 550 during periods of harvesting. The crops produced included green peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers.

The planting operation was broken down in three cycles of 60 acres each in order to provide adequate supplies for certain sections of the North American market through the winter months.

The Prime Minister who is chairman of the AGRO-21 Committee has techniques of intensive and efficient vegetable production and has stimulated considerable interest in non-traditional agricultural crops.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture Officer will be based at the pre-clearing and fumigation station being built at the Norman Manley Airport to check on the quality of the exports so that any rejection will be done here and not after the items have reached the U.S.A. This arrangement, he said, should pay off in the U.S. market.

In addition, a modern packaging plant to select grade and clean fruit will be established to ensure that only top quality products reach the market.

Banana Planting

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Banana growing will be returning to the Clarendon Plains with the development of a 2,000 acre banana project centred on St. Jago estate in Clarendon. Already planting material is being brought into the island for the

establishment of the nurseries which will supply plants for the development of the project.

This project is being established by the Jamaica National Investment Corporation and will be managed under contract by Kibutz Beth Haemek of Israel.

Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Percival Broderick has said that this is part of the Government's drive to raise the production of export quality fruit in order to take advantage of the guaranteed market in the U.K.

He added that because of the low volume and indifferent quality being produced the marketable export production was currently about 25,000 tons per annum while there is a guaranteed market for 150,000 tons.

Dr. Broderick said that the 2,000 acre development in Clarendon was the second of two major projects aimed at producing varieties of high yielding high quality bananas.

The first was the 2,000 acre project in Eastern St. Thomas which is being undertaken by Eastern Banana Co. Ltd. Already some 250 acres of the Gran Naine variety have been established from tissue cultured plantlets which are being imported into the island at the rate of some 7,500 plantlets per week. The pace of the planting is expected to be increased next year when an addi-

tional 1,500 acres are expected to be planted. This project, which is employing modern technology, including under-tree irrigation and cableways for protection of the fruit from field to boxing plant, is targeted to produce 15 tons of marketable fruit per acre and so is expected to increase export production significantly during the crop year 1985 and in subsequent years.

Dr. Broderick said that the Clarendon project would also be using modern technology including drip irrigation, and would stimulate interest in the use of underutilized lands in the area to produce bananas. The project would also provide employment in the parish for a wide range of agricultural workers.

Production from this project is estimated as well over 20,000 tons of export fruit annually.

Work is being done to increase the productivity of the EDF and JDB farms in St. Thomas, Portland and St. Mary. It is anticipated that these developments in the industry will help to achieve the targets of approximately 40,000 tons of export fruit next year and 70,000 tons in 1985.

CSO: 3298/334

BRIEFS

FOOD SHORTAGE--Alexandria Housewives in Alexandria, Inverness, Cave Valley and adjacent areas are experiencing an acute shortage of rice, flour, cornmeal, corned beef, kerosene oil and other basic items. There is ample supply of brown sugar, but the housewives are complaining that quality is poor. They are however hoping that supplies of these commodities will be made available for Christmas. There is also a shortage of eggs. In the local markets at Alexandria and Cave Valley there is also a shortage of yams and other locally grown foodstuffs. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Dec 83 p 3]

WATER CRISIS--Port Maria The water situation in Port Maria has now become critical. Residents of Frontier Housing Scheme, Barracks Hill and Cox St. have been virtually without piped water supply for nearly three months. Now and again a trickle come from the pipe in the pre-dawn hours. [as published] Supply by the water truck is very irregular and totally inadequate. Boys with their hand carts and push trucks are doing a roaring business fetching water from the Little Bay and Casa Maria areas. The situation in Mason Hall, Albion Mountain and Bonnygate is even worse as all the stand pipes have been plugged by the Parish Council. For months the pump in the Bonnygate area has been out of use. Residents from Mason Hall have to travel a distance of over two miles to the tank at Grants Town. Lines of people waiting for water are seen there all hours of the day. In the meantime water has been running to waste from a leaking main near Casa Maria for the past two months. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Dec 83 p 3]

MILK PRICE HIKE--Milk processors have increased the price of liquid milk by 13 cents per quart, and milk is now being retailed to the consumer at \$1.51 per quart. Dairy farmers however are still receiving 98 cents per quart for the milk they supply to the processors. United Dairy Farmers Limited increased the price of their milk by 13 cents to \$1.13 per quart from December 5 and it is now being retailed at \$1.51 per quart up from \$1.32. United Dairy Farmers and Cremo Limited are the major suppliers of fluid milk to the retail trade, and supermarkets reported that milk from these two suppliers is being sold at the same price. Attempts to contact Cremo Limited were unsuccessful, as their telephone numbers rang unanswered. Other suppliers of milk to the retail trade are Shaw Park and Cornwall Dairies, and Century Farm, but their milk has always been priced differently from Dairy Farmers and Cremo milk. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Dec 83 pp 1, 14]

CANAL REPAIR--Repairs have been carried out on five miles of canal serving the Upper Yallahs Plains, by the Morant Bay Area Land Authority. The canal conveys water from the Yallahs River in the vicinity of Easington Bridge, and irrigates farms at Phillipsfield, Easington, Heartease and Albion. The Chairman of the Morant Bay Area Land Authority, Mr. Eustace Wilson, said that assistance on the repair work was given by some farmers on the banks of the Yallahs River, among them the Tobacco Company of Jamaica. Part of the United Fruit Company's banana cultivation effort on the Yallahs Plain, the canal was built in the 1920's and had not been repaired since the early 1950's. Water had been escaping at some points along the five-mile gutter, thus depriving some farmers of irrigation. Phillipsfield, Heartease and Albion farms produce escallion, onions, vegetables, plantains, flowers, mangoes, grains and other crops, and the repair of the canal is enabling more water to reach the area. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Dec 83 p 11]

KINGSTON TRANSPORT BOARD--With the Government-owned Jamaica Omnibus Service Company being taken out of the metropolitan public transport system, and being replaced by private contract operators, the Corporate Area's transport system is to be regulated by a new Board as of January 2. The Board to be called the Kingston Transport Authority, and to be headed by former JOS Board chairman, Mr. Fred Hudson, will monitor the operations of the private contractors in matters such as their routes, and how they maintain schedules. "All in all, their day-to-day operations," a spokesman for the Ministry of Public Utilities and Transport, told the GLEANER. The powers of the Licensing Authority and the Public Transport Board (Corporate Area) will now be merged in the Kingston Transport Authority, the spokesman said. The law to effect this merger is being attended to for the January 2 date. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Dec 83 p 15]

CSO: 3298/335

SOCIALIST STATES CALLED KEY TO CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO (EL NUEVO AMANECER CULTURAL) in Spanish 17 Dec 83 p 1

[Commentary by Saul Ibargoyen]

[Text] As is well-known, all cultural development needs a solid and flexible socioeconomic foundation. Although we cannot say that there is a hard and fast interrelationship between the two, we can for the most part conclude that a stronger foundation and a higher degree of progressive organization of society are consistent with greater achievements in the arts and sciences. This also applies to technology.

But this would be of little use if the populace as a whole did not agree, more or less, on what constitutes social happiness. We often view the world as divided between the industrialized and the nonindustrialized countries, which is a euphemistic way of saying developed and undeveloped. It is all the more euphemistic because it neglects to draw a distinction between capitalism and socialism, in addition to several variations of the two that are meeting with varying degrees of success and failure in the quest for historical progress.

There are, of course, irreconcilable gaps between these two systems, just as the nations in one or the other system have achieved widely varying levels of development. Culture has a great deal to do with these systems and their development levels. For example, the USSR has made formidable and unmistakable gains in its multinational culture, an issue that we will be discussing on another occasion. In contrast, education and culture in general are in deplorable condition in countries recently liberated from colonialism.

Within the realm of culture we should include health care, decent housing, decent jobs, family, individual and social stability, etc. In turn, all of these elements should aim at making the nation aware of its own characteristics and at incorporating the nation into the cultural movements that are the patrimony of mankind. This patrimony is much broader, richer and deeper than the "Seven Wonders of the World," for example.

Recent studies on old and not so old societies tell us that the knowledge that is put into the heads of millions of students and the population in general represents a terrible constraint. And this constraint entails distortions that could be incurable if the State does not take charge of properly applying technical and scientific advances for the benefit of the workers and the nation as a whole.

Recent decades seem to demonstrate (UNESCO is an example) that a socialist State is best equipped to bring about this common benefit. We will have to see whether the socialist camp, with all of its regional and national diversity and with its enormous ethnic and cultural complexity, is able to make a qualitative leap forward (as we heard Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart say), risks and all.

This qualitative leap will be possible, however, only if the human and material foundation, on a turbulent planet on the brink of a nuclear war promoted by Reagan and his cowboy friends, is properly organized and encouraged and reaches the necessary quantitative and qualitative levels. Real socialism is a stage that not all of the countries in the socialist area have achieved. This gigantic task will be accomplished, however, only if all of them work together, with the cooperation (why not?) of other nations whose governments share a progressive philosophy and place the interests of the productive, creative, self-sacrificing masses above and below the petty interests of groups or classes.

We should recall that our world survives while consuming but a tiny amount of the water available in the ice packs, seas and oceans surrounding us. Just as we need more drinking water, we also need a higher level of world culture that will respect the individual and, at the same time, help us make more surprising changes in our own history. When viewed thus, culture is also one of the most bitter enemies of war. Culture and peace are, thus, one and the same word. Let us hope that imperialism's nuclear fire does not erase it from wood, metal, clay, stone and paper. No one would be left to write it again.

8743

CSO: 3248/299

MORAVIAN CHURCH URGES AMNESTY FOR ZELAYA SUR PRISONERS

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Dec 83 p 7

[Text] The Moravian Church of Nicaragua has called on all coastal residents who have left the country to make wise use of the amnesty that the government is offering and has urged Moravians in the United States and throughout the world to continue exerting their influence for peace and nonintervention against the Nicaraguan people.

The pronouncement of the Executive Board of the Moravian Church of Nicaragua was made public late last week while it was involved in a coordinated effort to reintegrate the 307 Miskito Indians who were set free in the wake of the JGRN [Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction] decree.

After acknowledging that the amnesty was a firm step towards unity and reconciliation, the Moravian Church called on all of its faithful to maturely support this government measure.

"We recommend very fraternally to our government that it also grant amnesty to prisoners from Zelaya Sur as a further contribution to peace and unity," the Moravians stated.

In addition to this recommendation, the document states that they pledge to continue intensifying their dialogue with the government to prevent a repetition of past mistakes and that they are going to help their pastors and members overcome the emotional crises triggered by their involvement. Finally, the Moravians thanked all religious institutions as well as human rights commissions for their efforts in bringing about the amnesty.

Reintegration Moves Forward

Meanwhile, a plan to completely reintegrate the 307 Miskitos released on 1 December has gotten under way. Participating in it are CEPAD [Evangelical Committee for Development Aid], UNAG, the Moravian Church, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and the government.

Sixto Ulloa, a CEPAD official, outlined the plan to reintegrate the Miskitos. It will be undertaken in 58 of the native towns of those who received amnesty. They will be given food, spiritual guidance, work tools and even some equipment for building or rebuilding their homes.

The total cost of the plan is 1,016,000 cordobas over a 3-month period. It is so detailed, however, that it has even provided for Miskito membership in the UNAG cooperatives that have already been set up, if they so desire.

The Executive Board of the Moravian Church is made up of Reverends Andy Sogreen, Joe Kelly and Felton Allen, Pastors Ofreciano Julius and Leonardo Joseph, Bishop John Wilson, Father Agustin Sambola and other evangelical pastors and missionaries, and it is directly involved in the project.

8743

CSO: 3248/299

GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO LABOR CHARGES OF TV 'SELLOUT'

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 10 Dec 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Our attention has been drawn to a Press Release issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday Friday denouncing another "ridiculous and disgusting" LIE by Labour. The Government Ministry described as a "rigmarole" a statement in Wednesday's Labour Spokesman that they intend to print this Saturday what they call the full story concerning an allegation that the Government has sold Z.I.Z. Television.

A Ministry Official said "It is deplorable that the Opposition can be so irresponsible and mischievous as to have stated such a thing since Wednesday, concerning an alleged action of the Government, without having the basic commonsense and ethical decency to investigate the allegation. No-one connected with The Labour Spokesman has approached Government for any information about this rigmarole. It may have some nuisance value for the Opposition to say that Government has sold Z.I.Z., but the fact is, that it is pure nonsense."

In the short space of time that has been available to The Democrat, we have been able to learn that the substance of this Nancy Story has to do with Government's agreement to grant permission for the establishment of a modern Cable T.V. service for St. Kitts and Nevis.

This agreement was made and published SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, and

facilitated the installation of a Cable link in Warner Park which enabled many of our citizens in all parts of St. Kitts and Nevis to enjoy a "LIVE" viewing of the historic State Service and Flag-Raising Ceremony to mark Independence. Labour had called for a boycott of Independence Celebrations but even though a mammoth 20,000 persons attended that Flag-Raising Ceremony, thousands more in the remote parts of our twin-island State eagerly seized the opportunity to watch the proceedings in colour as they happened — thanks to Cable T.V.

It is obvious that Labour has been irritated over this total failure of their boycott, which was made complete as a result of that Cable link. Those who out of lack of accommodation at Warner Park or misplaced loyalty to Labour did not attend the Ceremony were able to relax in the privacy of their home and share in this moment of history — thanks to Cable T.V.

Many more advantages are going to be gained for the people of St. Kitts and Nevis through Cable T.V. — but that is precisely what is frightening the defeated Labour Party. More benefits from PAM/NRP means more success for the Coalition, and the spiteful Labour Misleaders are incapable of putting COUNTRY ABOVE SELF.

ACTING PRIME MINISTER ASSAILS 'RUMORS' AIMED AT POLICE

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 10 Dec 83 p 12

[Excerpts] Acting Prime Minister of
St. Kitts and Nevis, The
Honourable Michael Oliver
Powell, in the Feature
Address delivered at the
16th Passing-Out Parade
of Police Recruits at the
Police Training Complex
in Basseterre, on Thurs-
day of this week described
rumours about the
so-called low morale of
the Police Force this
way: "Such wicked and groundless rumours
spread by Power hungry maniacs are aimed at
tarnishing the name and reputation of this
disciplined body which you have now earned
the right to be a part of."

We publish below, excerpts of the Acting
Prime Minister's Address:-

DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

The system of Government in this country is the
system which is known as the democratic system of Govern-
ment, and the central and dominant feature is the suprema-
cy of our written constitution, which guarantees the funda-
mental rights and freedoms of the individual, and notably
the right of free expression of public and private opinions.
My warning is that these constitutional guarantees are
checked and balanced by the rights of other individuals,
and by the constraints of public order, public health, and
public safety.

FALSE, MALICIOUS RUMOURS

Recently, a desperate group of individuals made a
dastardly attempt to discredit the Police Force as an
Institution and thereby destabilise law and order in this
country by spreading a false, malicious, and utterly absurd
rumour about low morale in the Force because of the alleged
unpopularity of the present Commissioner of Police.

Such wicked and groundless rumours spread by Power
hungry maniacs are aimed at tarnishing the name and reputa-
tion of this disciplined body which you have now earned
the right to be a part of. Those diabolical mad men and
women have a sinister and reckless determination to destroy,
and like a malignant cancer in our society, seek to spread

their evil tentacles even in the ranks of the Force, in an attempt to prevent the efficient Administration and Government of the Force.

The absurdity of the whole thing is that not only was no evidence put forward by the purveyors of this rumour about the so-called low morale of the Force, but indeed it is as plain as plain can be that there is no evidence of any low morale in the Force. The brilliance of the display here this afternoon is in keeping with the unfailing standards of police discipline, attention to duty, neatness of appearance, and helpfulness to the public which have become a fixture in our community over the years. I exhort all policemen, as well as all citizens of goodwill, to set their faces against this mad threat of subversion.

WINDY SIDE OF THE LAW

To the wicked rumour-mongers and would-be destabilisers of our beautiful and peaceful Nation I serve this caution: Do not get yourselves on what Shakespeare has aptly called "The windy side of the law". Remember that this land belongs to all of us, to you just as to me. And it is full time that you stop casting dirt into the well that gives you water. Far from suffering from any low morale, the image and reputation of the Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force has recently been given a tremendous boost as a result of the courage and bravery of those policemen who of their own free will and without any inducement whatever, volunteered for peacekeeping service in the Sister Island of Grenada, during the recent upheavals there.

HIGH COMMENDATION IN GRENADA

I have it from very good authority that our volunteer policemen received high commendation in Grenada for their discipline, intelligence and dedication, and they were the object of profound admiration from the professional soldiers stationed there, who have commented favourably on their creditable performance in the course of their service. That discipline and that outstanding performance are a credit to the Commissioner of Police, and on behalf of the Government I wish to recognise once again the diligence and inspirational qualities of Commissioner Stanley Franks, on whose resilient shoulders the brunt of this country's security falls in our newly independent nation.

A MODEL POLICE OFFICER

To those of you who are passing-out of training school today, I can assure you that in Commissioner Stanley Franks, you have a model Police Officer, on whom you would do well to pattern yourselves. His leadership, his self-control, his honesty, his intelligence, his discretion and his all-round competence are just a few of the sterling attributes which ought to fuel your determination to climb through the ranks as he did, to the very pinnacle of pre-eminence in your chosen profession.

BRIEFS

NEVIS BUDGET--Premier Simeon Daniel's administration at Charlestown will have to find some (EC)\$29 million to balance the Nevisian budget next year, according to proposals the island's political representative tabled in the legislature here this month. Mr. Daniel's projections for the 39-square-mile island with a population of 9 000, put current and re-current expenditure at \$10.97 million. Capital expenditure has been estimated at \$28.93 million, for a total projected expenditure of \$39.90 million in the 1984 fiscal year, which runs from January 1, to December 31. On the other hand, revenue is only expected to yield \$10.2 million, leaving the \$29.70 million deficit to be financed, hopefully, by extra-territorial largesse and to a lesser extent by the sweat of debtors responsibility. Mr. Daniel delivered his proposals before empty opposition benches at Hamilton House, the seat of the legislature at Charlestown, and to a solid body of compatriots, who only in August, this year, gave Premier Daniel and his Nevis Reformation party, an overwhelming vote of confidence at elections for the Island Assembly. His budget contained no additional tax burden on Nevisians, and already political pundits have attributed this to the unpreparedness to design a suitable tax system for this broad peasant-based economic pyramid. Apart from peasant farming, the only other pillars of the Nevis economy is an embryonic tourist industry, and a traditional fishing trade. [By Desmond Ward] [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 18 Dec 83 p 16]

CSO: 3298/348

GRENADA INVASION, AFTERMATH SPARK ATTACKS ON COMPTON, U.S.

U.S. 'Double Dealing'

Castries CRUSADER in English 10 Dec 83 p 4

[Article signed "Interim Status": "Reagans Double Standards"]

[Text] After the internationally denounced invasion of Grenada by American Forces the American Government through the Governor General Sir Paul Scoon and the other warmongering leaders of the Caribbean have decided to impose a government in the Spice Isle for its rehabilitation. The Government is supposed to be broadly based and was formed after full consultation of all interest groups in Grenada. However it was announced that former Prime Minister Gairy would not be allowed in Grenada at about this time and that the New Jewel Movement would not be consulted on the formation of this government.

The resulting government has finally taken office without their much publicised leader who had to eventually withdraw because of the level of personal sacrifices that would have been involved. The United States has instantly afforded the government with formal recognition. Pledges of millions of dollars of aid have already been materialising. This interim government which has been formed without full consultation of mass organisations in Grenada which has is in the puppet structure ideal to the objectives of yankee imperialism to discredit the four year old Grenada revolution. Consequently, full acceptance of this interim administration is paramount to the yankees.

But if one is to throw our minds back to the first quarter of 1982, our country St. Lucia, was in the middle of a political upheaval. Nothing like that transpired in Grenada. The Cenac administration after public demonstration resigned. In its place a truly representative interim administration was formed after full consultation of all mass organisation in St. Lucia, and was free from any puppet structure so as to become a creature of anyone except the people of St. Lucia. The interim administration was extremely National in its outlook and demonstrated most forcibly the achievements of the democratic apparatus which governs our daily lives. Because of this, this interim government had a mandate to govern the affairs of St. Lucia until General Elections in May 1982.

But what did we find? This interim government was overlooked by the American Administration when required to participate in important discussion with President Reagan during his Barbados visit on the benefits of his much publicised economic aid and trade package--the C.B.I. The reason advanced was that the government because of its interim status, had no legitimacy to attend and represent the people of St. Lucia. President Reagan insisted that St. Lucia would be invited when elections were held. At this time, the President knew how involved the yankees would have been in ensuring that their creature, the United Workers Party be returned to power. But the gross disrespect for the authority of the masses of St. Lucia to finally legitimise the interim government to speak on their behalf was not surprisingly exhibited by the yankee President.

Consequently what makes it now acceptable for the same yankee President to recognise an interim administration of Grenada which is not as National in its outlook at the one in St. Lucia under Michael Pilgrim. Its formation did not encompass the level of consultation between all mass organisation as was done in St. Lucia. It does not enjoy the level of acceptability among Grenadians at home and abroad as the interim administration had in St. Lucia. But it was politically expedient to disregard the wishes of the masses of St. Lucia until it suited the political objectives of the United Workers Party. A yankee imperialist party when in government. Today again it is politically expedient to recognise this bogus interim administration so as to obtain the authority to deal swiftly with the members of the PRG, PRA, and the NJM, all creatures of the resolution so that any party identified by the yankees to win the impending general elections would have little difficulty in doing so. [as published] The common feature to both circumstances is that the yankees are prepared to use their weight to influence the outcome of general elections in small Caribbean States. The casualty of this selfish operation is the people of the Caribbean. They are left with governments with no idea of current global economic and foreign policy heads and these affects a small island state. [as published] The symptom which create revolutionary governments are bound to set and fester. [as published]

The only consolatory factor of all this is that Caribbean people have followed the application of the revolutionary process in Grenada and have the history, achievements and mistakes of the PRG to be guided by.

The double dealing by the yankees has been quietly exposing their true intention in the Caribbean. The people of the Caribbean are not asleep to this. If it would take the emergence of another Grenada to display this, I am confident this would happen. The dice is cast and all those in favour of yankee imperialism are on one side and the rest on the other side to ensue that our land remains free of super power rivalry and become truly a sovereign creature of Caribbean People as Maurice Bishop wanted. [as published]

Role of OECS 'Fascists'

Castries CRUSADER in English 10 Dec 83 p 7

[Text] One of the cruel ironies of the Grenada situation is that everything was done in the name of democracy. Sovereign rights were violated in the name of democracy. Territorial integrity was compromised in the name of democracy. Treaties were misrepresented and abused in the name of democracy. The tyranny of arms was imposed on a small state in the name of democracy. Homes were bombed, hospitals destroyed, children nurseries attacked, all in the name of democracy.

The mask of Democracy was a convenient disguise for our Eastern Caribbean Fascist leaders who can barely emphasise well the ideals and principles of democracy. While Tom Adams Barbados' Prime Minister was playing God by preparing to mount an invasion of Grenada simply to rescue the Grenadian Prime Minister who was at the time under house arrest, he was also sharpening his Devil's pitch fork to get at a journalist Mickey Singh who resided in Barbados and made analytical comments on political and social issues which did not fall in line with Mr. Adams' viewpoint. Of course Mr. Adams is no novice at such exploits. He already has the scalp of Ralph Gonzalves of St. Vincent whom he had unceremoniously booted out of Barbados for his Socialist pronouncements. All in the name of free-speech and basic human rights!

St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton who is posing now as a champion of democracy is trying hard to forget that America helped him by rigging the 1982 Elections using special ink and ultra-violet light similar to the kind used by the CIA in El Salvador. So our oh-so-selfrighteous democrats have been anything but democratic in their abuse of the democratic system.

A month before Prime Minister Compton generated so much human concern for the people of Grenada, he was involved in a squalid, inhuman episode in St. Lucia known as the David England Affair. Mr. Compton booted the England family out of St. Lucia by changing the laws of the State in order to slap a Prohibited Immigrant Order on them. The Englands had lived in St. Lucia for sixteen years and had been exemplary community-minded citizens. They had broken no laws but they supported the Opposition Party and so the Prime Minister and his Attorney General announced publicly on platform that they would "kick their ass out."

Such actions are more in keeping with Fascist dictators than with the democratic posture which our OECS Leaders try to portray to the world. Dominica's leader Eugenia Charles betrayed little humanity in her handling of Rastas and youth in Dominica. She was also less than democratic and highly irrational in her open pronouncements on U.S. Television that the Cubans and the Russians were responsible for the events in Grenada. Unrelieved by any evidence in where even the United States bigots feared to tread. Even Kennedy Simmonds of St. Kitts who tried not to look as hawkish as the other OECS Leaders is now impaled on the American hook. He is now begging across the United States that the invading forces should be allowed to say on in Grenada.

The corruption of the Bird Regime has been demonstrated and proven to the whole world but corruption seems to be the stock-in-trade of Caribbean Democrats. So the Antiguan Prime Minister has become the eminence grise of our corrupt democrats but there is some doubt, as to who is wealthier St. Lucian's Compton or Antigua's Bird.

One of the by-products of the Grenada events is that the so-called Democrats of the Eastern Caribbean have been spotlighted for the whole world to see. The inconsistencies were alarming. Their capacity for deceit and falsehood was boundless. Their grasp of international affairs was appalling by any standards and their tendency to fascism was manifest. The Eastern Caribbean was highlighted on the world stage as having a right little, tight little bunch of fascist leaders studiously preserving the condition of ignorance and illiteracy in their people!

CSO: 3298/336

COMPTON RAPPED FOR FAILED PROMISES, ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION

Castries CRUSADER in English 10 Dec 83 p 9

[Unattributed reprint from CRUSADER of December 1982: "Burning Lights and an Empty Belly"]

[Excerpts] How relevant are the ringing words of Bob Marley to our current economic and political situation! All Prime Ministers in conventional politics are Santa Clauses who are expected to dole out the goodies not once a year at Christmastime but everyday of the year.

St. Lucia's Santa Claus is certainly in a helluva bind this Christmas because he has heralded far and wide the proclamation that this would be the best Christmas ever. He had promised extravagantly just seven months ago that he would perform economic miracles and bring untold prosperity to St. Lucians. He undertook solemnly to put all the youth to work in gainful employment and set the whole economy humming with the help of America's largesse. He went even further and pook-pooked the arrangement to pay Public Servants partly in cash and partly in debentures for backpay due to them through the collective bargaining process. Santa Claus, the financial whizz kid would find funds to pay all claims in cash if, of course, he was only returned to office! The effusive Santa Clause even threatened to eliminate financial waste and to manage the economy better. [as published]

Some sympathetic persons might well dismiss Prime Minister Compton's wild promises as simply "political ballyhoo and claptrap." They might even take refuge in the charge that all politicians do it. But the 1982 Elections in St. Lucia revealed a clear distinction between the philosophy and approach of the two parties. The Opposition Progressive Labour Party was saying quite openly and categorically that the world economic situation was such that in order to turn around the St. Lucian economy, a total effort at a national level was necessary and the people must be unified and politicised into a new strategy for economic development. The Opposition criticised sharply the existing economic system and showed that it was more conducive to exploitation by a minority than the even development and progress of the majority.

Compton's clarion call was different. He endorsed the existing economic and political system. He said it worked well and he had worked it for fifteen

years and found it suitable to our needs. He knew of no other system and if elected he would promote the Westminster-type political system and the US Private Sector model for economic development. His orgy of promises was based on the viability of that model and nothing else.

Seven months later the job market is tighter than it ever was and massive lay-offs have made life more unbearable for St. Lucians. The American funds that were expected to swell our coffers look more like a mirage now that the American economy itself is still in recession. Neither the private investors nor the tourist avalanche which Compton promised has materialised. In fact all the priming pumps on which Compton relied to turn over the economy are tightly clogged with little hope of unchoking. Ironically enough the same pipeline which he claimed that the previous Administration had chocked is now seized and solidly blocked under his Administration. [as published] The frustration is so total and the crisis so real that the Prime Minister and his Government have resorted to the oldest and cheapest trick in the politica book--Fool the people. Mesmerise them with the dazzle of lights. Make them sing and dance to forget the horror of their economic situation. Compton is now more than ever acutely aware of his total inability to make any dent on the social and economic problems of St. Lucia. His team of green-horns themselves realise that he had bluffed them too into believing that he could have pulled something out of the bag. Compton himself is listless, depressed, morose and feeling the loneliness of the long-distance bluffer. One glimpse of his face driving past is enough of a requiem for the hopes of the nation. Only two planks are left on Compton's platform for survival (1) fool the nation (2) arm the police and both of these are negative strategies for defeated leaders.

The Government itself is in an unprecedented financial mess. The mess it had vowed to clean-up has become even more putrid and the irresponsible waste of the previous Regime has been intensified. The reputation for good financial management which was used as a propaganda pitch for Compton during the last elections, especially by the Americans, has been blown sky-high. The reestablishment of the corrupt Castries City Council, the appointment of a host of inefficient Ministers of State at inflated salaries, the poor budget-handling and the inexcusable waste of The Festival of Lights has confirmed the Opposition view that Compton is both irresponsible and unprincipled in the handling of the country's finances.

But in the face of all this, it is the Prime Minister's hypocritical comment to the Youth Rally on 13th December which has focussed attention on the real contradictions in the economic system. The Prime Minister claimed that "there are some in our society who seek to take out more than they put in." It was indeed a curious remark to come from one who had avowedly settled for the inequalities in our capitalist system which in fact allows the holders of capital to take out much more than they put in, at the expense of those who provide the labour. [as published]

The remark drove observers to consider Compton's own position in respect of his rapid accumulation of assets over a comparatively short period in political life. A listing of his principal assets alone is enough to make the point:

- (1) Palmiste Estate
- (2) Mahaut Estate
- (3) Industry Estate (Pumice)
- (4) Morne Le Blanc Lands
- (5) Castries Boulevard Property
- (6) Ciceron House and Lands
- (7) Point Seraphin Mansion
- (8) Morne Giraud House and Lands.

Together these properties are conservatively valued at \$5.6 million! This is a truly fantastic rate of capital accumulation over a twenty-year span bearing in mind that Compton started with no capital base but armed only with his profession as a lawyer and the clout and manoeuvrability given to him by fifteen years in political office.

Many of Compton's colleagues who finished their professional studies at the same time as Compton but did not have the fillip of political office could never hope to achieve one-fifth of Compton's capital accumulation. More than that, talented technical men who work twice as hard as Compton can never hope to acquire through honest effort a quarter of his assets without the winking connivance of the local Mafiosi.

These are the realities of the nice little, right little islands that use the exploitative system of Capitalism to protect the acquisitions of a privileged few.

CSO: 3298/336

ROW OVER HANDLING OF FOREIGNERS' WORK PERMITS CONTINUES

Call for Minister's Removal

Castries CRUSADER in English 10 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] An unholy row is flaring up within the bosom of the United Workers Party over the work permit issued to Mr. Tekchandany to operate the Starlite Shop in St. Lucia. This decision has reopened the whole question of Minister Mason's conduct of the Work Permit Ministry which had been considered by Cabinet some time ago when the Minister was put on the carpet for what was considered to be irregularities in the granting of work permits. [as published]

The Opposition Parties had regularly charged that it was possible to obtain work permits from the Ministry by paying bribes to persons in authority and there were a few instances where non St. Lucians had confirmed that they had paid under-the-table sums of money for the purpose of obtaining work permits.

The Minister had survived the shake-down in Cabinet but the whole episode left a raw feeling among some of the "young Turks" as the younger element in the Party is referred to. The Representative of Dennery North who is Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Ferdinand Henry, is reported to be taking a strong line on Minister Mason's position in the Work Permits Racket. Minister Henry insists that on this issue of Mr. Tekchandany's work permit, the Minister should be relieved of his portfolio if his activities cause such an embarrassment to the Government.

Senator Stephenson Annius who is a United Workers Party nominee on the Senate and also happens to be the President of the Small Business Association has also taken a firm stand calling on the Minister to revoke the work permit of Mr. Tekchandany or else his Association would take "appropriate action to support its expressed position."

The Minister has in fact already stated that Mr. Tekchandany had violated the terms and conditions of his work permit by retailing goods when he should be involved exclusively in wholesaling. Informed sources claim that the Minister had simply used this technical dodge to revoke Mr. Tekchandany's work permit since certain businessmen had put pressure on him on the grounds that the Starlite Shop was undercutting them in prices and also on the

principle that certain areas of business should be reserved for locals. Of course the Minister was quite aware of this principle when the work permit was given to Mr. Tekchandany.

The Starlite Shop is still open to business despite the Minister's revocation of the work permit. No previous warnings had been given to the proprietor on the question of retailing and it is clear that the Proprietor had a verbal understanding with the Minister on the scope and range of his selling activities.

The whole affair now virtually transcends the award or revoking of a work permit. It focuses more on the system of bribes and the ability of Government Officers to "deliver the goods" to persons whose monies they have received "under the table." [as published]

Small Business Association Position

Castries CRUSADER in English 10 Dec 83 p 7

[Text] Due to accusations being leveled at the Small Business Association as a result of its position concerning the withdrawal of a work permit granted to one Mr. Tekchandany to operate the Starlite Shop in St. Lucia, the President of the Small Business Association feels that it is important that the position of the Association be clarified.

For some time now the Small Business Association has been discussing with Government Authorities the need to develop a policy relating to the development of the private sector, and the status of small business within the framework of the Private Sector, and the broad development of the National Economy. It is the view of the Association that a section of the private sector must be reserved for nationals of this country.

The S.B.A. welcomes meaningful foreign investment, particularly the type which provides significant employment opportunities for St. Lucians. The Sector which requires the greatest boost from foreign capital is the Manufacturing Sector and we believe that any policy developed by the Government should place foreign investment in that perspective.

Therefore when the S.B.A. was informed of plans to allow Mr. Tekchandany to operate a simple buying and selling business in St. Lucia the Association moved immediately to re-emphasise its basic philosophy concerning foreigners operating business locally. In a letter to the Ministry of Communications, Works & Labour the Association pointed out that it was of the view that if Mr. Tekchandany was allowed to open his doors in St. Lucia, such action would constitute an act of irresponsibility on the part of Government and disregard for those locals who were involved in similar operation and who had kept their doors open in the worst of economic times.

It is important to place on record that at the time that the Association moved, the Starlite Shop had not started operating and consequently Mr. Tekchandany's price structure was still unknown to the members of this

Association. Therefore when certain persons accuse our members of chasing the gentleman in question, out of the island because of his prices, I want to establish that this is totally false and that the Association's position is based purely on a broad principle which it had been discussing with Government for quite some time now. We were quite satisfied when the Minister heeded the Association's position and revoked the work permit granted to Mr. Tekchandany. It was extremely interesting for us to note, after discussion with the Minister that Mr. Tekchandany had in fact violated the terms and conditions of his work permit by retailing when in fact he should only be wholesaling. That development while curious was not surprising because it seems to be an accepted pattern now that foreigners granted permission to operate specific businesses here move into other areas without questions being asked.

The time has come for Government to step in and make its policy clear to businessmen in this country; to monitor the growth and expansion of foreign owned business in St. Lucia and to ensure that foreigners expand in keeping with set guidelines and that they avoid violating conditions under which they are permitted to operate.

The Association notes that The Starlite Shop continues to operate without heed to the Minister's deadline. In fact reports reaching the Association indicate that Mr. Tekchandany is now engaged in soliciting public support based on the price of his articles. This move by Mr. Tekchandany sets a precedent which could be very embarrassing to Government and the Association hopes that Government's failure to enforce its decision is based on technicalities which will soon be cleared up.

The Association will continue to monitor developments concerning the Starlite Shop and decide on appropriate action to support its expressed position. Further the S.B.A. hopes that Government will move quickly to develop a clear policy which will save it the embarrassment which may have experienced from the Starlite Affair.

CSO: 3298/336/337

TRADE MINISTER MALLET VOICES CONCERNS ABOUT CARICOM UNITY

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Dec 83 p 9

[Article by Guy Ellis]

[Text]

CASTRIES St. Lucia (CANA) — St. Lucia Trade Minister George Mallet is concerned that recent division in the 13-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM) over the invasion of Grenada may defer any moves to deal with pressing economic problems of the region.

Mallet whose country was part of the invasion force, told businessmen he recognised that the operation had created 'a general deal of ill-feeling and bitterness' in CARICOM.

"I am concerned therefore that these feelings could postpone, possibly until its too late regional governments meeting once again in brotherhood to tackle the pressing economic difficulties which we are faced with," he said in an address to the annual general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mallet, the country's Deputy Prime Minister called for understanding and reconciliation adding 'some of us may have been outspoken or abrasive in unusually

emotional circumstances...the survival of CARICOM and our economic well being require co-ordination of efforts to come to grips and to grapple effectively with the problems that continue to beset us in the region.'

The Grenada invasion was supported with troops and policemen from seven Caribbean nations. Four others — Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize and Bahamas opposed the action.

Mallet mentioned recent decisions by Jamaica to devalue its currency and by Trinidad and Tobago to put a squeeze on foreign exchange outflows, as placing great difficulties on CARICOM trading relations.

On the dollar devaluation, Mallet said 'the danger which this threatens for CARICOM trade and for us in St. Lucia will have far reaching consequences.'

The Jamaican manufacturer is now at an advantage (at least for quite some time), in

competing on 'the domestic market with CARICOM imports, unless of course, the overseas supplier has a particular advantage in terms of availability of much cheaper raw materials. CARICOM exports to Jamaica as a direct result of the devaluation will be expected to take a drop to an unacceptable level.

Mallet conceded that Jamaica, as a sovereign country was free to adjust its exchange rates. However, he lamented that there had been no consultation and exchange of information on exchange rate and other payment matters to preserve stability within the Common Market as provided for under Article 4 of the Caricom treaty.

"The Jamaica devaluation was unilateral and accompanied by no consultation or warning and was so massive, in excess of 40 per cent, as to be damaging to the trade of her CARICOM partners whose interests were apparently not taken into account."

Mallet added that 'protectionist barriers' against imports introduced by Trinidad and Tobago, following similar measures by Jamaica and Guyana, had further compounded difficulties within CARICOM.

He said St. Lucia saw Trinidad and Tobago as the market large enough to keep commerce flowing within CARICOM. But Port-of-Spain's recently introduced exchange control measures had effectively militated against imports into that country, a situation which Mallet said was potentially damaging to the fragile economies of the small Caribbean States.

He said he was most concerned that despite repeated requests to the Trinidad and Tobago Government to meet with a delegation from the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS), no official word had been received from the country indicating a willingness to discuss the problems created by the new procedures.

BRIEFS

SMALL PLOTS FOR FARMERS--Castries, St Lucia, Saturday (CANA)--The first 20 plots of land in a large scale plan to increase agricultural production here have been handed to small farmers in the Roseau region, just outside the capital. The programme, financed by the European Development Fund, the Commonwealth Development Corporation and the British firm Geest Industries, was in the planning stages for several years. It involves the cutting up of 1,600 acres of land formerly owned by Geest into small five acre farms. In all, more 160 such farms will be created. [as published] It is the first time that a project of this nature is being implemented here. Agriculture Minister Ira D'Auvergne, told the formal handing over ceremony for the first 20 farms that the scheme was not only unique in St. Lucia, but to the region as well and that its success could become a future model for other countries in the Caribbean. The St. Lucia Model Farms Project, as it is known, is being carried out at a cost of \$18 million. The selected farmers or their ancestors worked the land for several years when it was owned by Geest, producing first sugar, and later bananas. The small holdings will continue to grow bananas, but a new feature will be the cultivation of tropical fruits and out-of-season vegetables for export to Europe. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 11 Dec 83 p 3]

HOTELIERS-GAS STATIONS ROW--The Hoteliers in St. Lucia have hatched a plan to install their own Petrol Station to enable all hotels and the taxis servicing all the hotels to purchase gas from this depot. This will effectively cut out the current gas dealers who are already complaining of a sharp down-turn in their gas sales. In addition to this there are rumbles from small traders about some of the restrictive trade practices at some of the hotels. They claim that the management of Smugglers Cove has directed that all vegetables, citrus and other fruit sent to the hotel from the estates of the Prime Minister and the Commissioner of Police should be given priority and purchased immediately. The small suppliers with no other source of income but the produce from their gardens find this blatant favouritism a disgusting form of corruption. [Text] [Castries CRUSADER in English 10 Dec 83 p 1]

PDP LEADER RUSSELL RENEWS CALL FOR OPPOSITION UNITY

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 20 Dec 83 p 7

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent--Opposition parliamentarian, Randolph Russell, a former minister of health here, has renewed a call for opposition parties to unite.

Mr. Russell, the member of parliament for East Kingstown and leader of the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), has called on all democratic opposition forces to unite in one national party in order to bring about "meaningful change in the political and social life of the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines".

His call came less than a month after Dr. Ralph Gonsalves' Movement for National Unity (MNU), one of five opposition parties here, announced that it was abandoning efforts to force opposition-unity because the other parties had shown disinterest.

In recent years there have been several attempts by some political parties here to form alliances. The most significant so far was the 1972 alliance between the now defunct Peoples Political Party (PPP) of veteran politician, Ebenezer Joshua, and James Mitchell, the an independent member of Parliament. [as published]

That alliance lasted for only two of the five-year constitutional term, before differences between Joshua and his wife, Ivy and the other members of the alliance-government caused the government to topple after the Joshuas supported the St. Vincent Labour Party (SVLP), then in opposition, in a vote of no-confidence in the government.

There was also an alliance between the SVLP and the PPP for the elections that followed the toppling of the Mitchell-PPP government in 1974. Under this arrangement, the PPP agreed not to run candidates in the constituencies in which the SVLP was contesting the election. Joshua was appointed minister of trade and agriculture in the SVLP-administration that formed the government in 1974. But this "marriage of convenience" ended four years later when Joshua was fired. (CANA)

CSO: 3298/348

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION UNIFICATION FAILURE--Kingstown, Mon., (AP): Another political party here has abandoned efforts to unify the fragmented Opposition, and will concentrate on building its forces for next year's general elections. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, who formed his Movement for National Unity (MNU) in October, in the hope of unifying opposition to Prime Minister Milton Cato's St. Vincent Labour Party, said today that the other four Opposition parties had shown no interest in the proposal. Cato's party holds ten of the 13 seats in Parliament, and has been in power for two consecutive terms. Last year, minority parliamentarian Calder Williams, disbanded his three-year-old Working People's Party (WPP) to rejoin James Mitchell's New Democratic Party (NDP), in an effort to unify opposition to Cato. But the move failed when the NDP refused to admit Williams. The third Opposition seat is held by former health Minister, Randolph Russell, who bolted the ruling party in 1981 to form the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP). Since its formation last month, Gonsalves' MNU has called for opposition unity as the political basis for forging a democratic alternative to the St. Vincent Labour Party. But in the present political climate, the people have grown cool and cynical toward further attempts at Opposition unity, according to a party statement. As a result, the MNU will shelve plans to promote formal talks with the other Opposition parties, and concentrate on building its forces for the upcoming elections, the statement said. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Nov 83 p 5]

LAND FOR FARMERS--Kingstown, St. Vincent, Saturday (CANA)--The St. Vincent Government has given in to farmers demands that they be allowed to purchase land they occupy on the 600 acre state-owned Lauders Estate here, according to local press advertisements. [as published] The estate 18 miles north east of Kingstown, was bought in 1974 by the James Mitchell-PPP Alliance Government with the intention of selling the land to farmers in the area. But before this could be done, the Alliance Government lost the General Election and the policy was never implemented. In June last year, Prime Minister Milton Cato's administration told farmers who had occupied the land soon after it was bought, that they could have continued access to it on a lease-hold basis for three years in the first instance. The farmers, however, wished to be in a position to eventually own the land and called for a rental-payment system. They won support from Opposition parliamentarians, led by the then Leader of the Opposition, Randolph Russell, a former Minister of Health in the Milton Cato Government. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 18 Dec 83 p 3]

CHAMBERS SPEECH OUTLINES AIMS FOR GRENADA, CARICOM TIES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21-25 Nov 83

[21 Nov 83 p 10]

[Excerpts]

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers outlined this country's position in the Grenada crisis to the annual conference of the PNM's Women League at the Fyzabad Senior Comprehensive School recently. The "Guardian" begins serialisation of his speech today.

HONOURABLE MINISTERS, officers of the Women's League of the People's National Movement, members of the party, visitors and friends it is always a pleasure for me to speak to the women of the party and particularly so when they meet in annual conference, which is a time for stock-taking, a time of renewal, a time for considering, approving or rejecting resolutions about the party, the country, the region and the world.

I am happy to tell you in addition to the decision taken by the General Council in Trinidad and Tobago, a foundation member of the party who is at present abroad has been in touch with me and he is in touch with some European interests who are likely to make available to us a printing Press, and some other paraphernalia which will assist us in

moving forward with our own publication. I thought the women of the party would like to know that.

Under normal circumstances I would have been glad to come here today to participate in your discussions on perspectives, but in the light of recent events it is impossible to avoid a discussion on Grenada. That is one of the burning issues of the day, hot in the region, hot in Trinidad and Tobago — internationally.

I said in Parliament and I would like to say it again today Grenada is part of the region, the English-speaking Caribbean, the wider Caribbean region, and for us in PNM there can never be any doubt, there ought never to be any doubt about the sincerity of the statement which I just made for a variety of reasons.

The founder of this party was probably the greatest regional integrationist produced in the Caribbean in the last century. I have worked with him for 25 years dedicated to his principles, his ideals, his hopes for the Caribbean. I have tried not to deviate from those principles of regional integration, and I pro-

pose never to depart from those principles.

INTEGRATION

When we in Trinidad and Tobago talk of regional integration, for us it is a matter beyond words — everybody in this room knows. I speak as somebody who fully recognises that there is a substantial constituency of Grenadians in Trinidad and Tobago.

It is a matter of record that in the last seven or eight years our financial contribution to integration in this region has been close to \$1,000M Trinidad and Tobago taxpayers dollars.

So when we speak with feeling of Grenada we speak as a people whose hands have been not only in the wounds but in the till. As people who have met more than their obligations to the region.

No country now engaged in events in Grenada has come anywhere to approximate the financial contribution of Trinidad and Tobago to the region. So I repeat, we stand ready to assist in a resolution of the crisis in accordance with our stated principles.

STATEMENT

I made a statement in Parliament outlining our position as you know. Following that statement — the Opposition — and when I speak of the Opposition of this country I do not mean the Opposition, led by a political leader whose every trick and gallery have now made him PNM's greatest asset.

I speak of the Opposition in Parliament which represents people in the country in accordance with defined constituencies provided for under the Constitution of the sovereign Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Opposition supported the Government on this matter and I would be failing in my duty as the political leader of this party if I did not put on record my sense of appreciation and profound respect for the attitude of the Opposition in this matter, demonstrating for the world to see, not the region, that there are certain matters on which the representatives of the people of this country are not prepared to compromise.

As it has emerged beyond that statement there remain elements in the country who appear to doubt the accuracy of some of the things I said in that statement and I would like to say to them, to you, the country and the world, that I am fully aware of the constitutional consequences of a Prime Minister lying to the Parliament. I need no reminder on that

And for that reason, I wish to restate certain parts of that statement publicly again today. And I quote "I would like to state that the first official notification I as Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, and current Chairman of CARICOM received of the landing of forces in Grenada came from the United States Embassy in Port-of-Spain through the Minister of External Affairs several hours after the actual landing

"I wish to state further, that to date," and if I might depart from my text, that was on the date of Parliament and, I repeat as of today's date, "I have received no notification from any CARICOM member country of any intention to request assistance from the Government of the United States of America to intervene militarily, in Grenada nor have I been informed by any CARICOM member country that such a re-

quest had in fact been made." I repeat that for the record. I stand by it unequivocally.

I went on to say "In the light of the present situation, and in pursuance of our original initiatives we shall seek

1. The earliest possible withdrawal of combat forces in Grenada.
2. "Through appropriate channels the earliest establishment there (meaning Grenada) of a CARICOM peace-keeping presence in which we are prepared to participate."

DISTINCTION

I went on to say and I say it again in this regard, "We wish to state that in our view there is a clear distinction between the role of an occupation force and that of a peace-keeping force.

3. The establishment of a broad-based civilian government. The primary function of the civilian government would be the earliest putting into place of arrangements for the holding of free and fair elections.

4. The establishment of a fact-finding mission comprising eminent nationals of CARICOM States

I put that in the record of the conference of the Women's League as I did in Parliament

There have been some consequences, and before we discuss even our initiatives which are

still valid, and which I will discuss with you today, I think I may as well make a statement as a consequence of some of the fall out of my having spoken in Parliament. To date, no section of the statement that I have made in Parliament has been challenged outside of Trinidad and Tobago. I think that is significant.

It has not been challenged by anybody who has come and said that it is not true, that is not true, that is not true.

No challenge

But there has been one unfortunate development, and I think I better get it out of the way one time. I should tell you that I am not speaking to you from a prepared text and therefore I am choosing my words meticulously

As you know, subsequent to that statement in Parliament it became necessary for us to put on the Parliamentary record, as well, a report from our Ambassador accredited to a certain country. The Ambassador was asked whether or not he had in fact made that statement and he confirmed that he had made the statement and that he stood by it.

I have examined very carefully a very comprehensive report from Ambassador Pitt on this matter. And it must be a matter of concern to the women of the party what happens to Mr. Pitt, be-

cause Mr. Pitt has served Trinidad and Tobago well and his party well.

CONFIDENCE

Mr. Pitt has served as Member of Parliament, Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of National Security, Attorney General and Ambassador. I wish to state publicly today that I, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, have the fullest confidence in Mr. Pitt's integrity.

I demonstrate that by telling you that Mr. Pitt remains in the Ambassadorial service of this country, stationed at the Ministry of External Affairs and accredited to all the other countries to which he was accredited, with the exception of one.

Regrettably, and that remains so, until it is deemed appropriate, that Mr. Pitt should undertake another posting elsewhere. But as to our confidence in Mr. Pitt and his integrity, I wish no one to be in any doubt.

As a consequence of Mr. Pitt's position, and in accordance with the request of the country concerned, Mr. Pitt is withdrawn from accreditation to that country and we have taken the same opportunity to notify that country which was about to send its High Commissioner here, that he should stay where he is for the time being

[22 Nov 83 pp 11, 12]

[Text] I would like to make it clear to you that we have not broken diplomatic relations with anybody, our High Commission in that country remains, and remains staffed, Mr. Pitt is simply withdrawn and on our side their High Commissioner would not be received--that's all. Now, we had said that we wished the earliest possible withdrawal of combat forces in Grenada.

We state that today, and I don't think we need to argue or even discuss the relevance of that. All activity which has taken place in the last several days appears to be aimed at accomplishing that. If seems so to me.

We said we wish to see established a CARICOM peace-keeping presence in which we are prepared to participate. We made it very clear that the announcement by us of participation in a peace-keeping presence was not to be taken at face value, that we wished to discuss the terms and references of such a presence and the composition and other modalities of such a presence.

It appears to me that not only is international opinion pointed in that direction, but it appears to me that positive steps are being taken to see if that can be accomplished. I am choosing my words with care because I wish to do nothing or say anything today to enlarge the yawning gap that exists in the region and about which I shall speak in a while.

Impeccable

I do not want to extend that gap any further, but I will be less than frank with you if I did not say that my information from impeccable sources suggests, firstly, that it is the view of some people that Trinidad and Tobago should not be allowed in a peace-keeping presence.

That view has been expressed--publicly and reported upon, and also the latter part of our statement is creating difficulty, not for us, but apparently for others, that is; there is a difference between an occupation presence and a peace-keeping presence. Now that is not my problem as of today.

But as a Government we can only act if we are invited to act. And in so far as Grenada is concerned, the only constitutional entity that the PNM Government recognises as of today and will continue to recognise, until the establishment of the civilian government, which has been promised, there is only one person in Grenada we recognise as having any authority or locus stand in Grenada, that is the Governor General of Grenada.

Nobody else is in a position to discuss Grenada with us--nobody else.

I have information communicated to me that steps are well on the way, steps are more than well underway. The report suggests that certain countries have committed themselves to the peace-keeping presence, and in the view of the person communicating with me, it appears that Trinidad and Tobago is absolutely important from his stand-point in any peace-keeping presence in Grenada and that that had been made clear to other parties.

We are now required as the Cabinet of Government to consider what would be the nature of our association with the presence that is contemplated. It may well be that the Cabinet may decide that it wishes to have no sort of Trinidad military association. It may wish to say that it prefers to be associated in this, that or the other form. But these are matters which we as a Cabinet will consider.

And to those who have been saying we should not be in the force, and believe me I am not angry. Do I look angry to you, I am not angry.

To those who are saying they don't believe we should be there and they would not cooperate with us, I wish to make it very clearly known that I am not prepared to beg to participate in any force, I am not begging.

Participate

You don't want Trinidad in it, okay. In any event we were not in it from the start so if you do not want me in it, okay. We have told the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Secretary General of CARICOM, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, every Caribbean country in what used to be called CARICOM, I'll come to that in due course, we have told every one of them of our readiness and willingness to participate.

I am not prepared to kneel down or genuflect before anybody to participate.

The third point in terms of what we were trying to achieve in Trinidad and Tobago was the establishment of a civilian government, broadly based, and from all accounts, it seems that is coming.

My information is that one of the most distinguished sons of Grenada, whose name I will not call, for obvious reasons, has indicated that, subject to obtaining appropriate clearances from his employers, he will be prepared to accept the leadership of such a government and I have information to suggest that the clearance that he requires will be forthcoming.

I would say if the gentleman, whose name I repeat I will not call, is the person who is likely to head a Grenadian Government I can think of no person better positioned to attest to Trinidad's integration commitment than that gentleman and if it is a fact that that is the gentleman who is going to head that Government, I can tell you today one of the first things I will do after he is sworn in is to invite him almost immediately to Trinidad and Tobago.

Now I am in no position to tell you if his schedule will permit him to come urgently but as to whether or not such a man will understand the principled position you have taken and be prepared to work with you and above all who would recognise the role that we can play, that is the man.

The fourth point was that we asked for the establishment of a fact finding mission, I am not being facetious but I would like to say today that never before was there greater need for a fact-finding mission than today. I draw your attention to a few facts.

Have you noticed within the last few days that several people who we were told were murdered and whose bodies we will never find have been giving interviews? Have you noticed that? Is it not a fact? Headlined in Trinidad and Tobago's newspapers ex killed, ex assassinated, ex executed I see all of them talking. Up to this morning they were talking. I draw your attention as well to something else. Every person who was in Grenada on the day on which Bishop died who has spoken to the Press has given a different account of what has happened.

I believe we should adhere strongly to our request for a fact-finding mission because the fact-finding mission will also be finding other facts about which I will raise a few questions just now. I repeat I would assume that the fact-finders mission will unearth some other facts about which everybody seems to be in darkness including my good self. As you know, they don't talk to me. I am the last man to know anything. I want to know the facts. According to one CARICOM leader I want the F.A.X. I want the facts.

The Dust

And I will tell you why I am so interested in the facts because the dust is now settling, you see, and as the dust is settling there are certain questions which I would like to ask the Women's League. I am not asking anybody else I am asking you the women of the party.

Do you know what is the full extent of damage to Grenada, do you know? I take note of the fact that the Women's League has answered me. You all said no. I do not know. My Cabinet colleagues do not know. We would like to know.

I am becoming increasingly concerned and a nagging disquiet is creeping on me about the extent of loss of civilian life in Grenada. Over the last ten to twelve to fourteen days I have been told, you have been told, the region has been told, the world has been told, how many Cubans have died, how many Cubans arrested, how many Cubans have been repatriated, how many Americans are missing and subsequently found or not found, how many Americans died, how many Americans were wounded. I have sifted the newspapers national and international for any approximate figure of Grenadians and I don't only want to know, I am speaking to the women of the party, please, I don't only want to know from the women of the party how many civilian Grenadians have died, I also want to know how many cannot be accounted for.

What is the extent of the destruction of property in Grenada, I do not know. I don't know and we will never know but I should not say we will never know. We cannot measure today the trauma, the moral, spiritual and other dislocations we can't measure that.

Above all, since Trinidad and Tobago has, I repeat, made unquestionable tangible contributions to the continuation of integration in this region, one of the questions I would like to have answered is what is it going to cost to reconstruct Grenada.

Question 1, Subquestion--Who is going to meet that cost? I suspect that the cost is going to be prohibitive I suspect that. As to who will meet the cost as of today Sunday 6th, I will not hazard a guess, I don't know.

As to the position of Trinidad and Tobago in this matter, the principles of which we have stated repeatedly, I would say it is possibly no exaggeration if one said the invasion of Grenada or the intervention, if you want to use Dr. Ince's language, the military intervention since the UN body was formed in 1948, I can think of no issue, I don't know if my colleagues can, which

has drawn such sharp rebuke internationally than Grenada and I will tell you why in a while because the issue of Grenada is not about Grenada.

Suffice it to say notwithstanding today's polls in one of the papers support for the position of this country has come from China, through South East Asia to Australia, across Europe, across Africa, across Latin America and Canada, in other words, the entire world has supported Trinidad and Tobago with the exception, and understandably so, of persons who would necessarily have to vote in support of action they have taken.

One understands that; but notwithstanding such an overwhelming degree of support internationally, within Trinidad and Tobago there has been some measure of concern or lack of support, not concern, downright lack of support for the government.

It is possible that I do not know the constituencies, and I use constituencies here in an external sense, I do not know what external constituencies are represented by the views which have been expressed against the stand of the government of this country. I do not know. They may be representing constituencies which they have to satisfy.

One of the things that I have found very painful to bear is the attacks on me and there is one today, you know, but that's alright I don't have the capability nor the constitutional ability to take punitive action against the Press.

[23 Nov 83 p 9]

[Text]

We have a Constitution which permits people to have different views and the one thing I will never do is even suggest that we should ever tamper with that. Never. Let them say that they are against us.

What I have been unable to understand is that as a people we don't seem to recognise that I am not the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago by coup, by counter coup, by imposition or by accommodation.

I am the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago elected and, if I might use certain nice language that the people like to hear, elected in elections free from fear and free and fair, elected in the last election of 1981, the most divisive election ever

fought in this country and notwithstanding the divisiveness of it, not a single person in this country suffered a broken arm

ELECTION

I can think of many places which I will not identify where if you have a parish election you can't count the dead. What I have found a little painful to bear is that within Trinidad and Tobago we seem not to understand that an insult to the head of your country and your government is an insult to every damn citizen in the country.

I have also found it extremely unpalatable that at least one group of people, without any base, and notorious for attempting to hijack parties, I say hijack

parties because they tried to hijack this one and they were dealt with notorious hijacking of parties.

Let me sought to treat this matter as a political question for knocking about in little meetings all about the place. The thing is absolutely incredible.

That's why I tell you, the political leader as he calls himself of that gathering, is the greatest asset we have. Every time he opens his mouth we are more entrenched and he must continue talking.

My friend, Mr. Panday, who is not in the country, he is away on official business he himself, and if I might borrow some regional language again, who has been the victim of marrying in haste and repenting in leisure, Mr. Panday has told his

central executive that the marriage is irretrievably broken down.

That is a fact. He has done it. I have never seen anything like this and in this regard I must say whatever their differences are with me whether real or imagined, in respect of this matter, the "Express" has demonstrated a greater understanding of the issues involved, the fundamental questions involved.

Let me give you two quotations from an editorial in the "Express" this week which capture everything. I will read them for you.

The first one goes like this:

"What was perceived by the Caribbean people as a clique of oppressive military men has turned out into a major confrontation between

the super powers with even countries like Britain fighting shy of getting directly involved.

"From beginning to end the Grenada situation has proved to be far more dangerous than anyone could have anticipated."

That is the first quotation. Let me read the second one for you also from the "Express". I say it in all honesty. Their analysts have articulated the issues in this matter with a profound understanding. Let me read the second one for you.

"What we expect now, in fact, is that CARICOM will go into abeyance and the closer degree of regional co-operation recently demonstrated by the region's leaders will be shelved for quite some

time to come. Certainly for as long as the situation in Grenada remains tense and combat forces maintain their presence in the island.

"This is, indeed, a great pity for Grenada will remain a Caribbean problem long after the fighting has come to an end"

NEIGHBOURS

"It is difficult to see how that island is going to be developed in the near future without the close collaboration of her neighbours particularly including, Trinidad and Tobago."

Now you see those two quotations tell you everything. I understand people are saying that the Grenadian population feels let down by Trinidad and Tobago but I will deal

with that just now. I go back to the two quotations from the "Express" about C A R I C O M - / Grenada / Trinidad co-operation and the major confrontation between two super powers.

I see within the area. I don't want to say CARICOM or what it is. I see within the area people are now saying that they felt reasonably satisfied that nothing will go wrong and that now he was removed certain things tumble down. I find that very difficult to understand.

I will tell you why I find that very difficult to understand because it is I who brought Bishop in from the cold. I am the man who did it. It is I in 1982 who brought him in from the CARICOM cold.

It is I who raised with him and earnestly pleaded with him to do something, to give some practical response to the region and the world that he was not detaining people up and down and across.

As a consequence of which I can testify that he released 49 people within 48 hours of my discussion with him. It is I who saved him from expulsion or attempted expulsion last November.

It is I who saved him from expulsion or attempted expulsion in July in Port-of-Spain and it is I who raised with him the whole question of going back into some sort of constitution and he immediately responded by appointing a Constitution Commission.

[24 Nov 83 p 9]

[Excerpt] It is I who also raised with him when he was last here, and he left me with a promise that he will think about it, the question of considering some sort of inspection mission so that people can look at the detainees and talk to them.

He told me in principle he had no objection to that but there are certain persons whose countries could not be on that. I will not identify those people. Perhaps I can say that I see some of the same people espousing him now as some friend of theirs.

I bet back to the EXPRESS editorial. I have not gone off that because what I have said about Bishop is relevant to that and to my lack of understanding of the constituencies within and without which have found it difficult to understand our position.

I find it very difficult because I want to tell you what are the issues involved in Grenada which we considered and which informed our decision.

The first issue is the effect of any such action on the Caribbean integration movement. Our first consideration was the preservation of the integration movement.

Super Power

Secondly, what is involved in Grenada in my respectful view on the basis of what is discussed now is the sanctity and validity of the United Nations Charter. That is involved the sanctity and validity of the Organisation of American States Charter.

That is involved in Grenada and above all that huge question mark which has now arisen over the whole question of sovereignty of any state which is not itself a super power.

Those are the issues involved in Grenada. These are not emotional matters, my friends. That is what is involved today in Grenada.

I will get to the integration movement. I repeat them for you. Is there any sanctity about the UN Charter and validity?

The same question in respect of the Charter of the Organisation of American States but more frighteningly and I am sure this is the reason why we have got as much international support as we have got on this issue.

That large question mark which now hangs over the whole question of sovereignty of States unless they are themselves super powers. These are the issues involved. It has nothing to do with having an aunt living in Grenada or a cousin living in Grenada.

That is very relevant but that pales into insignificance when you start to talk about the sanctity of the United Nations Charter and whether or not sovereignty still remains alive today in Trinidad and Tobago or elsewhere.

The fall-out of this you have not begun to see. The fall-out has already reached the European theatre and one of the things that will emerge from this is an enormously vociferous and powerful non-aligned movement. Mark my words.

[25 Nov 83 p 10]

[Excerpts]

There are certain disturbing features emerging from this Grenada situation which I would like to bring to your attention.

The first concerns a statement by the political leader of a so-called party on the very day on which I spoke Parliament to the effect that he was in possession of information that the High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago had been called in somewhere at a certain time, a certain day.

Now that is a very serious matter because the man uttering the statement is not in Parliament, he is not in Government, he is not a County Councillor and I don't know if he is a

voter and the man uttering this statement has already said this Government cannot last three years.

AERIAL UP

So my aerial immediately goes up and what I would normally have disposed of as political tripe when he says this Government cannot last for three years ceases to be a political joke and I tell him today publicly that utterance is no longer being treated by me as political old talk, it is now being treated as a national security matter.

I also draw your attention to something else and I say it to the women of

the party a Prime Minister and his Cabinet must always take into account public opinion when they take decisions. But I want to tell you no prime minister in any part of the world expects every single action of his to be approved by the entire population.

This is politics and you have to take some hard political decisions and I assure you as Mr. Mahabir, Mr. Mohammed, Mr. Williams and Mr. Manning can, on the basis of our work at the National Economic Planning Commission, we have some hard decisions to take, very hard.

It has been said that we did not move with the despatch with

which a government should move to bring back its citizens. I don't know what you mean by that! On the Monday before the invasion of Grenada — the invasion was on Tuesday morning.

OPPORTUNITY

On Monday, and I used this opportunity to answer an editorial in this morning's Press to the effect that my proposals could not have been achieved because I had taken a decision not to speak to the military regime. Of course, that's a joke.

That is a joke because the Ministry of External Affairs was in contact with Grenada over our nationals in Grenada and we

established contact with the office of the Governor General and from his office secured approval and we were ready to move our nationals on Tuesday.

But good God, I was not part of the intervention, how would I know that come Tuesday morning the planes could not go there.

I was not a party to the cancanan (contretemps) and I don't see how anybody can say today that we haven't done all that we could have done.

We moved with despatch on this matter, absolute despatch I have received as well a lot of correspondence asking me to lift the sanctions which we have imposed on Grenada.

The Cabinet has considered this matter and has decided that for the time being only one sanction shall be lifted and that is, we will permit the use of the small port of Trinidad and Tobago.

We have certain objectives which we would like to see accomplished and if you

go in to negotiate you must have a position from which to negotiate. That's elementary in a room like this.

But I would be telling you a falsehood if I didn't say events over the last two weeks have left a very bitter taste in my mouth and I am talking now regionally.

A very bitter taste in my mouth and the wounds are very deep. I will not say the wounds are fatal. I wouldn't go as far as that, but the wounds are very very deep and its going to

take a long, long time for those wounds to be healed.

More seriously, it would come as no surprise to me if as a consequence of the action we have taken or the position upon which we stand as a Government if certain consequences, economic and otherwise flow from that.

I am warning the party now. I stated by reservations about that or my concerns about that in Parliament. I state them today.

[Editor's Note: Issues of the TRINIDAD GUARDIAN for 26 and 27 November were not available. No further installments were found in issues of 28 November or subsequently.]

CSO: 3298/316

GRENADA OPERATION CONTINUES TO SPARK DISCUSSION

Criticism of Barbados

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Nov 83 p 12

[Article by "Public Affairs Correspondent": "Why Should Barbadians Get Loot from Grenada Invasion?"]

[Text] IN SPITE of or, perhaps because of, the millions of words printed and aired about the Grenada invasion there are several aspects of it or incidents connected with it which have been missed or have escaped attention.

While Prime Minister Adams and his troops held a victory celebration at the Sandy Beach Hotel, he was presented with one AK-47 rifle mounted on a plaque bearing a map of Grenada, and it was said other such presentations were to be made to other Barbadians.

Is it legitimate for loot to be taken away in the form of the arms of their enemies by invading forces when they say they were on a res-

cue mission by "friendly forces?"

Is it legitimate for the main invaders to take away as loot the documents of the previous Government, thus removing material relevant to the future writing of the history of the people and the place during a crucial period?

What has taken place cannot be compared with cases of similar material held in London or Paris or Madrid or Lisbon acquired in previous centuries by metropolitan countries who ruled a particular colony.

SIMILAR STATUS

Or has Washington, by virtue of purported invitation from others acquired a similar status over Grenada?

Mr. Adams's outrageous remarks about Mr. Basil Pitt, Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner, were condemned in the Grenada invasion debate in the Barbados House.

Mr. Branford Taitt, Opposition MP, said Mr. Adams owed an apology to the people of Barbados for his behaviour to Mr. Pitt and in his sober moments would recognise he had made "an error of judgment."

Some mischievous person floated a rumour that Mr. Adams had tape recorded his conversation with Mr. Pitt. There was absolutely no basis for the rumour and it must have been born in the atmosphere of conspiracy in which the idea of going to war was hatched and continued with secret messengers flitting between the United States and Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean.

Whatever may be thought and said in condemnation of certain people and their inter-

perance of speech on occasion, surely they would not descend to the surreptitious recording of the conversations of decent people doing business in good faith with them.

Richard Nixon must have been cured of this failing for all time although he is still filthily enriched by writing and talking of his bizarre experiences.

Yet another Opposition MP remarked in the debate that the time had come for people in public life to conduct themselves in a manner that was compatible with the public interest; they should not use language which resulted in serious hardship for the people of Barbados.

Would you believe it? Prime Minister Adams, flush with the victory of himself and his troops which got away without a scratch in battle, found it possible to liken Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados to husband and wife between whom the trauma fade with a little cussing.

While the propagandists and the Prime Minister himself want to make it appear to

have been Tom's shining hour he suffered defeat in the United Nations Security Council, the U.N. General Assembly and the Assembly of the Organisation of American States which all condemned the invasion.

Another defeat which passed unnoticed was

that Mr. Adams and all Barbados had been counting on election to the U.N. Security Council in the seat vacated by Guyana, believing it was a foregone conclusion.

The Barbados invasion, with Barbados in the leading role was far

too much for those who had given their word in promising their vote was too much to stomach.

Another unnoticed incident was the suggestion in the Barbados House of an Independent international commission to deter-

mine the facts in the initial Grenada killings.

But in the hysteria whipped up even on a university campus where academics and budding academics should learn to be calm it is unlikely that anyone can be got at this stage to look for facts.

Tobago Dissatisfaction

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 29 Nov 83 p 7

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text] **DEPLORING** the "ambiguous and ineffectual stand of the Trinidad and Tobago Government on the Grenada issue," Dr Jeff Davidson, Deputy Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly also lamented the fact that the Association was never consulted by the government on the matter.

"While the Prime Minister called in religious leaders and representatives of foreign governments for consultations, he never attempted to get the views of the Tobago people through their elected representatives in the Tobago House of Assembly," said Dr Davidson on Thursday evening.

"And Tobago," he reminded, "was the Caribbean island nearest to Grenada just 90 miles away and most likely to be affected by events which were taking place and took place there."

Dr Davidson was at the time moving an amendment to a motion brought before the Assembly by People's National Movement Assemblywoman Beatrice Julien which urged the THA to "declare its support for the principled stand adopted and maintained by the Government on the Grenada issue."

Mrs Julien surprised the House by advancing no arguments in support of her motion. She just read her two paragraph motion and took her seat.

Her colleague Assemblyman William McKenzie, obviously following pre-arranged strategy, was equally brief in rising to second the motion. He merely observed that "everyone was fully aware of the situation in Grenada."

This approach obviously threw the majority side of the Democratic Action Congress controlled House into a degree of disbelief if not confusion. "I don't know what to say," declared Dr Davidson after moving his party's amendment to the resolution.

"I am not aware of what principled stand we are being asked to support. The mover of the motion has not told us what that principled stand is. She has not

elaborated on her motion," he said.

"I am just as non-plussed as you are," observed THA chairman ANR Robinson.

"I just don't know what the member for Scarborough (Mrs Julien) wants me or any other member of the House to support," continued Dr Davidson.

He then proceeded to deal clause by clause with his amendment, which in its preamble stressed that Tobagonians believed in a democratic way of life and frowned upon coup d'etat or armed overthrows of governments as repugnant to their way of life.

After expressing solidarity with the Grenadian people, he went on to criticise the government for its handling of the issue.

Chambers in New Delhi

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Dec 83 pp 1, 20

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text] Wednesday: The treatment process for the deep wounds in the Caribbean region caused by the Grenada situation was started at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, according to Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers.

"I would not say healing has begun," he said.

Speaking in a late night interview in his hotel suite at the Ashok Hotel in New Delhi following the end of the meeting, Mr. Chambers said he felt that Trinidad and Tobago should continue to play a constructive role in regional and Commonwealth affairs.

"Not that we in Trinidad and Tobago aspire towards Caribbean leadership. We believe we have a role to play and we believe we bring a certain maturity to discourse."

Commenting on the Grenada situation in respect of Trinidad and Tobago's stand, he said no principle "as far as we are concerned" had been sacrificed in terms of the communique which represents a consensus of the Commonwealth. Each country stated its position at the United Nations and stood by that, he said.

"I would say that the consensus is fair. Everything we aimed at is covered in the communique" he said.

Continuing Dialogue

Prime Minister Chambers also explained that there was a meeting of Caribbean delegations during the Commonwealth conference at which he was not present because of another engagement, but a number of issues affecting the Commonwealth were discussed.

Trinidad and Tobago was represented by Mr. Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Co-operatives and Social Security.

Mr. Chambers said that a Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting was not a negotiating body and did not address itself to any particular issues.

"It is continuing dialogue at several ministerial levels. The important thing about the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting is the extent to which we all meet in the same room with individual interests, exchange views, some common to a few, some entirely different, mostly a recognition of totality of the problems facing the world."

He said it made for the extent to which one could benefit from what somebody is doing in his own country.

He felt, too, that such conferences made for more functional cooperation and harmonisation of policy aiming at world peace, world disarmament, inter-monetary reform...an amalgamation of ideas.

Commenting overall on the conference, Mr. Mahabir said that when he left Trinidad and Tobago he suggested that if they were able to make any move forward on the international economic front it would have been a tremendous achievement.

Pointing to the questions of Cyprus, Grenada, international security, Mr. Chambers said that it was difficult to identify and particular achievement.

Noting that Trinidad and Tobago had been included in a consultative group to work towards promoting consensus on economic action, he said that his report from the Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting on the Bretton Woods Report had been given broad endorsement and he had carried out his mandate.

Asked about Trinidad and Tobago's inclusion he said it must have been the view of some people that "we have a contribution to make."

On the question why Trinidad and Tobago did not follow up the request from some countries to host the 1985 conference, Mr. Chambers said that the Bahamas had made an offer some time ago in Ottawa and Trinidad and Tobago as such did not make an offer.

"We were asked to consider making an offer and once it became clear that the Bahamas had in fact made an offer I felt that the Caribbean had sufficiently identified itself. In terms of conflict, I saw no reason why we should make an offer."

Mr. Chambers felt that the Goa declaration of international security was very important in that it married the views of non-aligned and NATO alliance.

He drew attention to the issues relating to South Africa and Namibia.

CSO: 3298/317

ACTING PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES GRENADA, CUBAN TIES

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Nov 83 pp 24, 41, 43

[Part 2 of interview with Acting Prime Minister Kamaluddin Mohammed on 24 November 1983, place not specified; Part 1 unavailable]

[Text]

Q: What is the significance of the Cuban Trade Mission visiting Trinidad and Tobago at this time?

A: No big thing. They have been coming to us and we have been going to them. A long time. A lot of people have put a different meaning to it. As Mr (Desmond) Cartey pointed out yesterday, these discussions and exchanges have been going on since 1975. Our people have gone up there. We have our sugar cane treatment centre in Trinidad and Tobago where bagasse is being used and molasses to produce a cheap feed.

We have got a lot of technology from Cuba and we are seeking to expand our trade because the question of employment is vital here, and these things have started a long time, not today and not because of what happened in Grenada as some people are suggesting. And this visit was planned long before the Grenada issue came up at all and it has come now, and some people are sug-

gesting that it is inopportune.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago wants to live friendly with everybody. We don't want any enemies. We don't want to hate anybody. We don't anybody to hate us. We want to live as friends. We respect a community, if they want to have a Government of their choice, like in Chile, there was an election and they elected a Government of their choice by the will of the people and by a democratic process. We respect people's rights.

We reserve the right to trade or to treat with anybody if we want to or if we don't want to, but basically, the Cuban trade mission here was planned before the issue, long before and we have had these missions before. Our missions have gone there. So I don't think people should put into it a meaning that they have come just because an issue took place in the Caricom area.

Q: Accepting that that is the Government's intentions, but have we not had experience which in-

dicates that when the Cubans trade heavily with any country that they tend to move in rather large embassies which are concerned about much more than trade?

A: Well the Cubans have been trading with Britain. Britain is one of their biggest markets and Britain sells to and buys from Cuba, and I have not heard anything from anybody at all. And in any event whether people put missions or not is a matter for the home Government. I think the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is fully capable of determining at what stage its interest will be jeopardised or not.

We are operating on the basis that we are friendly with everybody and we don't see any reason why anybody would try to subvert our economy or subvert our country. We have had a good relationship with everyone on all sides. Those who are on the far left, those who are on the right, those who are in the middle. We are friendly. We

have visited the Soviet Union.

We have visited China. We have visited the United States. We have visited Cuba and we are friendly with everybody. If some day they do something and we don't like it, we will say so. And if we do something and they don't like it they will say so. That does not say that if there is disagreement that we must necessarily take it to a point that could cause a dislocation of the normal relationship.

Q: While they are trading with the U.K. and many other large countries, these countries all have a brand of intelligence apparatus to keep track of their movements. Do you think we have comparable apparatus here?

A: Well I would not comment on whether we have a comparable one. But don't underestimate the Government of Trinidad and Tobago at all. Just don't underestimate them.

Q: I trust the Cubans appreciate that as well.

A: I am sure they do.

Q: Would you elaborate on your statement about the press being responsible for recent criticisms against the Prime Minister?

A: Well, I think my statement was slightly misunderstood. What I was referring to particularly was an editorial in the Evening News followed by some letters which appeared in the daily press by certain writers. The Evening News carried a story stating that the Prime Minister was racial.

If I can just read it I will show it to you. Let me see it The Evening News of Thursday November 10 in an editorial stated that George Chambers, the Prime Minister had been trying to rationalise the non-intervention stand of Trinidad and Tobago. That is his right and certainly the country expects this. But there are a few questions he should answer.

How come he called in only the leaders of the Christian community and not the Muslim or the Hindu leaders? Why is he introducing into the national debate on the issue the element of race, as he did in his address to the PNM Women's League in Fyzabad?

Chambers's consultation of only the Archbishop of Port of Spain and the Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago and his reference to "black specks" are most unworthy of him and we suggest strongly that he should make a mental note to avoid in the future any such gaffes.

Now that I tried to do was to clarify the issue, because I am aware that the only reason that the Prime Minister did not see the Muslim or Hindu leaders was because there was no time to see them. And in any case one of the leaders of these religious groups was out of the country and he wanted to see both of them for the same reason, if he had seen one of them somebody would have said that there were problems.

Now all I am complaining about, I say that such a statement,

if they had queried it as to why the Prime Minister did not see them then we would have answered it but they did not query it. They jumped to conclusions and they are asking why did he introduce in the national debate on the issue the element of race.

Now so far as his statement about the speck of dust is concerned — the black speck of dust — what he was trying to say is because we are a black country there is always discrimination against black people and that's a thing we are fighting for, trying to raise our nationalism to the extent that we could see things in a broader light, rather than in racial terms. He merely mentions what is a fact. It is not something that is new that he has said here.

What I was seeking to do at the convention in San Fernando was to draw attention to the Evening News and to the other people who wrote the article that they ought to investigate it first and not condemn. And that if they condemn a wrong, it was all right, but not to introduce a thing that the Prime Minister was guilty of introducing the element of race.

Q: How do you see normalcy in Grenada and in the Caribbean being restored?

A: I know that it was stated in the Prime Minister's statement that whatever help that could be given to restore democracy; we have always advocated the restoration of democracy. There will be a need for a period of time for people to sit down to provide machinery for election and

to hold elections soon so that people could choose the kind of Government that they want.

It would seem to me that from what we have read in the newspaper that the interim Advisory Council had been established of prominent Grenadians and we would hope that they will be the best persons to determine what they want, and in order to restore democracy. I think that more people will be willing to help.

I shall be discussing it. The PM has made his statement in Parliament. Things have changed since then and I don't know what we will do within the next few days when this Advisory Council would have had the chance to consider what they want and then suggest to their friends and their neighbours what they would like to have.

Q: Meanwhile how are we going to bring about a mending of the bridges. I know this is not just Trinidad and Tobago's job but we are all one in the Caribbean and we all like to think of a Caribbean destiny. How do we go about mending the bridges? You yourself have been around prominently in the field of external affairs?

A: Well, I feel that time is the greatest healer. My own feeling is that the less said about it now the better because when it comes to Heads of Government we must always

give them a certain latitude and careful not to say things to drive a wedge between them. I have every confidence in our Prime Minister. He is a very shrewd man. I think he is very greatly underestimated. He is capable of dealing with this matter.

What I feel now is enough reason to go too deeply into these events. There is a lot more I could have told you today. The meeting is taking place in New Delhi up to the 30. Our leaders are there. I do not know what has transpired so far. We have not gotten a report, but I am confident that our leaders have the maturity to resolve this matter in the not too far distant future and everything will fall in place. I don't think there is a need for introducing any special machinery.

We have had these problems before in the region and they always sorted out themselves and I think in due course, in international affairs there are always problems between peoples. What has happened in the Caribbean is something in my opinion that our people have the maturity to deal with.

Q: Would it be too liberal an interpretation of your remarks to say that there will be a meeting of the Heads of Government, an unofficial meeting, while they are in New Delhi?

A: I have no knowledge of that. We wait and see.

Q: Well, while I disagree with some of the positions that you have taken, allow me to assure you that I do so with respect and appreciation for the opportunity to discuss these matters. The press in this country has not had the opportunity to publicly discuss matters of national importance with anyone sitting in the Chair of Prime Minister for, perhaps more than 10 years. May I thank you on behalf, not only of the EXPRESS, but of the national press.

A: Thank you very much, and I assure you that I am one of those who believe it is the right of people to differ on issues. But these disagreements must not result in expressing these disagreements on the basis of slander or on the basis of allegations. I feel that on many occasions in Trinidad and Tobago it would be better if the press would investigate properly and in their comments they must always keep in mind that a Government, especially the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, are very experienced people and in the political acts and the technical acts, they must credit them with knowing what they are doing. They must not talk every time. I don't think it is prudent to speak every time. Many

people have said that the leaders of the PNM and the leaders of the Government don't talk but I think its very dangerous

Q. Permit me to point out that this is a two-way street, and that the press, in an attempt to do its job, must seek information, while Government frequently refuses to give information on important matters.

A. Yes, I agree, but more can be done on both sides

CSO: 3298/317

REPORTAGE, OTHER MATERIAL CONCERNING TALKS WITH CUBANS

Desire for Air, Sea Links

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Nov 83 pp 1, 22

[Article by Gail Alexander]

[Text] Government is interested in establishing or strengthening sea and air links between Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba.

This was stated by Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Mr. Desmond Cartey yesterday in a welcoming address to members of a Cuban trade mission currently on a three-day visit in Trinidad for talks.

Mr. Cartey headed a 13-member delegation which met the Cuban team at the Trinidad Hilton to discuss matters of trade between the two countries.

Represented on the local team were government officials from the Ministries of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, External Affairs, State Enterprises, Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, Finance and Planning and Energy and Natural Resources. Others came from the Industrial Development Corporation, ISCOTT, BWIA, Caroni and the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association.

1975 Visit Recalled

The Cuban delegation, headed by Minister of Foreign Trade, Senor Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, also included Mr. Ivan Cesar Martinez (former Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago); Mr. Argimiro Easvidal Fernandez (aide to the Minister); Mr. Roberto Rivas Lopez (Director of Latin Division-Economic Collaboration State Committee); Ms. Marie B'Hamel Ramirez (Specialist-Commercial Marketing Policy) and Mr. Manuel Sanchez Manzano (Commercial Attache).

Mr. Cartey recalled that a mission from Cuba had visited Trinidad and Tobago as far back as July 1975 for similar discussions. However, the decision to have the present delegation come to this country for talks was made in April 1982 shortly after the visit of Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senor Alarcon in March last year when possibilities of trade between both countries were discussed.

The interest at hand now, he said, lay mainly in exporting light manufactured and energy-based products including steel, fertilisers and later on, methanol and urea.

Trinidad and Tobago, he continued, would also have an interest in importing raw sugar from Cuba and possibly exporting out locally bred waterbuffalo in exchange for Cuban dairy cattle.

Mr. Cartey also advocated establishing and strengthening sea and air links between both countries as an asset to trade.

"Trinidad and Tobago has always been interested in improving trade and commercial links with Cuba, since there are products in both countries which form the basis of our economies. There are also areas in which we both have comparative advantage regarding each other's products.

In the past we have both looked elsewhere for trading opportunities. Perhaps the time has come when we should consider trade between our two countries," he said. [as published]

Definite Basis

In return, Senor Cabrisas Ruiz, through an interpreter, Ms Elouisa Hernandez Janiero, said that his mission's intention "held a definite basis for the development of economic-commercial exchange."

He recalled to mind the visit of Prime Minister Eric Williams to Cuba in June 1975 when a joint communique between Trinidad and Tobago and that country was signed. That document, Dr. Cabrisas Ruiz said, expressed commitment to support efforts of Latin American and Caribbean countries and intensify those of trade, between one two. [as published]

Both countries, he continued, held in common the fact that they are non-aligned states, and also that each had a definite chance for development through the other, especially is an appeal for the establishment of new international economic policies was made. [as published]

Not Yet Balanced

Right now, he said, bilateral exchange between this country and Cuba was not yet balanced.

"There are a number of reasons for this state: for example, limitations where transportation of goods and communications are concerned, and also a general lack of mutual knowledge, but hopefully open dialogue, personal contact will solve this."

Discussion between both delegations continued throughout the morning until noon when the Cuban visitors were guests at a luncheon hosted by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Acting Prime Minister Kamaluddin Mohammed attended the luncheon.

The Cuban delegation was also due to meet representatives of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association at 4.30 p.m. yesterday. This morning, Dr. Cabrisas Ruiz will pay a courtesy call on the Acting Prime Minister at Whitehall at 9 o'clock. Following this the Cuban delegation will visit installations at Point Lisas.

Trade Talks

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 24 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] **POISED TO ENTER a new era in its trade relations with Cuba, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago yesterday made it clear that it expects tangible benefits from its efforts to defrost commercial connections between the two countries.**

Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Desmond Cartey informed a visiting Cuban Trade Mission of specific hopes for trade in light manufactures and energy-based products, for example steel, fertilizers and in the very near future, methanol and urea. Trinidad and Tobago would be willing to purchase sugar from Cuba and

to exchange water buffalo for dairy cattle, he stated.

Cartey was speaking at the opening of trade talks at the Trinidad Hilton between 14 representatives of this country's government and private sector and the visiting seven-person delegation led by Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade.

Both Ruiz and Cartey referred to tentative approaches by both countries to establish fuller trade links for at least the past eight years, and seemed to view the present talks as the occasion

for cementing those intentions.

Cartey announced that Trinidad and Tobago is interested in strengthening sea and air links between the two countries as a means of trade. He also spoke of exchanges of trade related information and referred to a proposal to mount an exhibition of Cuban products in Trinidad.

In his reply Ruiz also mentioned the lack of mutual knowledge about each country's goods which at present hampers trade between Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago. He said that bilateral exchange between the two countries have not reached the economic and commercial spheres at the level that these countries have potentially between both economies.

This was because of the existing limitations

on the transport of goods and communications in general and the lack of mutual knowledge of the conditions of our markets, he explained.

"That is why I consider this meeting of great importance," he remarked, "not only because of the point of view of value our future exchanges might reach, but rather because I'm sure that the fundamental aspect is personal contacts between the members of our two delegations."

He looked forward to a systematic analysis, without rushing, of all the possibilities one or other two economies could have in deepening those issues which could be considered of mutual benefit to be analysed, he said.

In studying these issues, Ruiz stated, his mission was looking beyond the bilateral con-

tacts "in view of the collaboration that can be established from a commercial point of view within the whole of the developing countries in a common effort to soften the consequences existing in our countries of unequal terms of trade."

He went further to observe that in the context of the unprecedented economic and financial crisis facing the world, 'south-to-south' co-operation became more necessary.

He said that under the leadership of Eric Williams, Trinidad and Tobago had been a leader in the region in promoting the idea of co-operation between the Caricom countries and Cuba, and went on to praise Trinidad and Tobago as an "example of political courage in the defence of the pu-

rist interests of the Caribbean region."

This country's delegation at the talks, held under heavy security at the Trinidad Hilton, included Senator Carlton Alert, Acting Minister of State Enterprises, Arthur Lok-Jack, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association and Frank Rampersad, Chairman of British West Indian Airways and Caroni limited.

The Cuban delegation includes Ivan Cesar Martinez, a former Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, Roberto Rivas Lopez Director of the Latin Division, Economic Collaboration, State Committee and Ms Marilu B'hamel Ramirez, Specialist in Commercial Marketing Policy in the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Concern over Sugar Topic

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] **CANE FARMERS** want to know about the trade talks, concerning sugar in particular, held between Trinidad and Tobago and the visiting Cuban delegation last month.

A spokesman for the farmers said that they were concerned about the discussions on sugar, if at all discussions were held on the particular subject. They have since called on the Trinidad Island-wide Cane Farmers Association (TICFA) to take up the matter with Government.

An official of TICFA said the association was concerned and was due to meet in special session to discuss the issue.

He said he was surprised to hear that sugar was one of the items discussed, without the association being informed. On the other hand, the All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union, through its President General, Mr. Basdeo Panday, leader of the Opposition, had been calling on Government to state categorically its position on the future of the sugar industry in this country. More than 300,000 people-workers, cane farmers and their families and the business sector, depended on the sugar industry, he added.

Has the Government planned to shut down the sugar industry and import sugar? This is the question farmers and sugar workers are asking.

CSO: 3298/318

TOBAGO RESENTS LOSING 'FAIR SHARE' OF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 23 Nov 83 p 23

[Text] Charging that Tobago never enjoyed its fair share of national development funds A. N. R. Robinson, Chairman of the House of Assembly, said that indications for the future were even more forboding.

But I intend to fight with every ounce of strength at my disposal to see that Tobago gets its fair share, he declared. Robinson was speaking at the opening yesterday morning of the Northside Connector Road which links the Claude Noel Highway with Scarborough at the Bacolet and Main Street junction.

He said Tobago had continuously put to very good use what little of the national investment funds was made available to it. Despite that however the indications, he said, were that there would be a drastic cutback of these funds to Tobago. This was tragic in his view since the island was not in a position to enjoy the benefits of the energy-based industries sited in Trinidad, and Tobagonians generally did not enjoy the use of such facilities as the Jean Pierre Complex and the University of the West Indies, financed from national funds.

He warned that recent events in the Caribbean should be a lesson to the country that such inequality of treatment could not continue for independence does not mean brutalisation of a people--that was for slavery.

The Assembly Chairman then repeated the charge he made some months ago on a similar occasion, that there were public servants employed at the Central Administrative Services, Tobago (CAST) who were engaged in subversive activities against the Assembly. He said that after his first disclosure he had taken up the matter with the Public Service Commission but subversive activities continue. It must be stopped, declared Robinson, threatening to treat the public servants involved as politicians, since they were in fact playing politics.

Minister of Works Hugh Francis, who was present but not as an invited guest, visiting Tobago he said in connection with another matter, joined Robinson in cutting the ribbon to declare open the Piggot Street Car Park at Scarborough.

CSO: 3298/318

HARD TIMES FOR NATION'S ECONOMY FORESEEN BY OFFICIALS

Manning Remarks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Nov 83 p 16

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

MINISTER of Energy and Natural Resources, Mr Patrick Manning, is seeing the overall picture in Trinidad and Tobago today as one of general belt-tightening. "And each of us must bear a part of the burden of this adjustment from the days of plenty — the good times — to which we have been accustomed."

Mr Manning was at time addressing the Third Annual Conference of the San Fernando East Constituency of the People's National Movement at the Pleasantville Senior Comprehensive School last weekend.

He said that with less revenue from petroleum, there was less money available for Government expenditure. "Therefore, there will be fewer capital projects than in the recent past."

"So there will be less new jobs available. Moreover, a fall in Government expenditure will result in decreased cash flow in the country," he added.

Government, he said, for its part, was doing all that it could to seek out new sources of revenue, and at the same time to cut back on some of the burden placed on the treasury by existing subsidies.

For example, the petroleum levy through which Government subsidise gasoline purchases at the approximate rate of 18 cents per litre — "that levy has grown for reasons that one can guess. In 1974 it stood at \$33.7 million; in 1976 \$68.3

million; in 1978 \$93.3 million and in 1980 \$298 million."

EVEN FURTHER

Due to measures introduced in the 1983 Budget, this figure was expected to drop to \$158.6 million this year. It was clear that the total must be carried down even further to bring it to a level consistent with the present state of the economy.

Mr Manning said: "We in Trinidad and Tobago must understand that our petroleum resources are not renewable and must make efforts, like consumers throughout the world, to conserve these. It is time we come to grips with the energy situation and curb our urge to get into the car just to go around the corner for a newspaper."

He said that the Government was seeking to assist the oil companies in discovering new petroleum reserves, in order to increase our revenue base.

To this end, the Government conducted a 13,000 Km seismic survey in deep waters off the north and east coasts of Trinidad in 1980-'81.

Mr Manning said that the results and interpretations of this survey were received, and were not entirely discouraging. It was intended to put up some of these areas for competitive bidding.

He noted that that would lead to further exploratory work "and then, we are optimistic, to the discovery of new petroleum reserves for Trinidad and Tobago. Personally, I am of the view that this work will provide us with the necessary resources in the decade of the nineties."

Mr Manning also spoke of a recent survey by Government on land with the introduction of advanced technology and the recognition by Government of the importance of keeping the levels of production, work activity and employment in the petroleum industry from dropping too low, too quickly.

Mr Manning also spoke of incentives to the oil companies by reviewing the levels of supplemental petroleum tax on production from land fields and added that the supplemental petroleum tax on marine production was being reviewed, and an announcement would be made on this subject in due course.

Bank's Gloomy Picture

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 24 Nov 83 pp 1, 64

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago could experience zero or negative economic growth this year and price increases and higher unemployment are inevitable, a top Central Bank official said yesterday.

In an address to a luncheon meeting of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce at the Hilton Hotel in Port of Spain, Terrence Farrell, Senior Research Officer at the Central Bank, explained why the institution introduced a new system last month to monitor the outflow of foreign exchange.

The new system, under which a new form called ECO must be approved by the Central Bank before foreign exchange is released for imports, has drawn heavy criticism from business groups who charged it was creating chaos and driving up their costs.

Stressing that the new procedures would not be abandoned, Farrell explained that the petroleum sector, the mainstay of the country's economy, had been in decline since 1978.

It had declined by 12 per cent in 1981 and five per cent in 1982 and a further decline was expected this year, he said.

This decline meant that the government would have to cut expenditure, he added, pointing out that the fiscal deficit last year was \$3.3 billion, or 18.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product.

He also pointed out that real growth in the non-oil economy had fallen progressively from 8.4 per cent in 1979 to about three to four per cent in 1982.

This trend coupled with the large decline in the real output of the petroleum sector had had the effect of slowing down real economic growth, which could be zero or negative for 1983, Farrell said.

Other problems were a deterioration of the balance of payments, he added, pointing out that Trinidad and Tobago incurred in 1982 a payments deficit of \$525 million, its first since 1973.

The deficit is expected to exceed two billion dollars this year, he said, adding that the country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$1.83 billion between January and October this year.

The oil "boom" of the 1970s was a windfall, Farrell said, "but unfortunately we began to behave as if it were permanent...and proceeded to spend our foreign exchange as if there were no tomorrow."

The introduction of the new procedure was aimed at tightening up the outflow of foreign exchange, he explained, adding that the Bank had other policy measure alternatives but had discarded them for various reasons.

One such alternative was a devaluation of the dollar, he said, but "unless and until two elements can be assured a devaluation is simply not on the cards."

The two were the development of a viable institutional, financial and organisational basis for export development in nontraditional goods and services and a national consensus on incomes policies, he added.

Farrell said that despite many complaints the system introduced was quite simple and had three basic objectives:

- .Indicative budgeting and planning of foreign exchange utilisation.

- .Development of a monitoring system for visible imports in support of the first objective by building a data and information base on importers and products and;

- .a partial system of import restrictions.

He said the restrictions on imports would be temporary and admitted that they would lead to price increases and "shortages" of nonessential items.

But he argued that prices would rise under any other option chosen to deal with the problem "and, indeed, price increases must be seen as an inevitable part of the process of adjustment through which we must pass."

He said the Bank did not wish to restrict imports which would maintain output and employment, but pointed out that imports of consumer goods in 1982 totalled \$2.3 billion.

CSO: 3298/318

MANUFACTURERS SEEK GOVERNMENT 'PROTECTION' FROM JAMAICA MEASURES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Manufacturers in Trinidad and Tobago yesterday expressed their "deep concern" over the likely adverse effects of the devalued Jamaican dollar on the local manufacturing sector and are calling on Government to take "immediate protective action."

Yesterday, the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association, in a statement, warned that unless immediate action was taken to protect local manufacturers, the following was quite likely to develop:

The growing unfavourable balance of trade with Jamaica would further deteriorate. And this would be accompanied by an increasing drain on local foreign exchange earnings.

Flooded Market

Already, it was pointed out, for the nine-month period--January to September, 1983--Trinidad and Tobago's imports from Jamaica had amounted to (TT) \$88.7 million, compared to exports, which included petroleum products, that registered only (TT) \$25.6 million--a deficit of (TT) \$63.1 million.

In addition, the local manufacturers pointed out, they would no longer be able to compete in the Jamaica market. On the other hand, Jamaican manufacturers would be able to ship goods to Trinidad and Tobago at considerably reduced prices.

As a result, they envisaged a flood of Jamaican products on the local market, thus making it "extremely difficult" for Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers to compete, even in their home market.

According to the association, the overall effect would be a further substantial reduction of local production levels resulting in idle plant and equipment; increased costs, and reduction in export opportunities.

Against this background the Manufacturers' Association said it was calling on Government to implement the strict reciprocity in trade agreed to at the last Heads of Government meeting, held in Port-of-Spain.

During intra-regional trading talks between Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica in late September, it was pointed out then that under the provisions of the Bridgetown Agreement, Jamaican manufacturers had received more than the full benefits of the advantage afforded them, in the light of a reduction in value of the Jamaican dollar.

Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Desmond Cartey had emphasised then that even though Trinidad and Tobago had retained its import licensing regime, licences were not unduly delayed. In fact, he said, 92 per cent of licences applied for were issued by his ministry.

It was later learned that up to the end of September, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce had granted licences for (TT) \$180 million worth of goods from Jamaican manufacturers.

Now with this latest devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, the local manufacturers claim that they were being backed into a much more sticky corner, and as a result they were hoping that the Government would act immediately.

CSO: 3298/318

COUNCILS URGED TO REJECT SCHEME FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Nov 83 p 22

[Text]

COUNCILLOR Latchman Seecharan, new Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Bodies, has called upon councils to reject outright Government's policy paper on local government because it sought to further erode the authority and responsibility of local government bodies, especially the county councils.

Councillor Seecharan, who was chairman of the association for the 1970-81 term, thanked members for the "confidence" shown in him in again electing him as head of the organisation.

He said at Saturday's meeting of the Association, that he regarded the job as tough, requiring some hard decisions, but that he would operate at all times in the best interests of the association "putting the interest of the association above the interest of the individual."

He told the members: "Together we must be prepared to work for the proper functioning of the organisation and as a leader there is nothing more satisfying than the knowledge

that you have succeeded in putting together a good, strong working team that will be able to tackle a tough job and see it through with understanding and enthusiasm"

Councillor Seecharan Chairman of the Victoria County Council, called upon the members to take meaningful interest in all matters pertaining to local government. He said Government's policy paper removed 11 of the 18 functions for which the county councils were established. The Association must call upon the Government to stop the "illegal operations" of Solid Waste Management Company, Environment Improvement Programme, Secondary Roads Company and now the Community Development Division, which he described "as the strongest area of the ruling party."

He listed the following as some functions "taken away" from county councils: Street lighting, school feeding programme, home for the aged, clearing of minor water courses, control of libraries etc., pastures, releases to village councils, decoration of parks and recreation grounds.

CSO: 3298/319

OPPOSITION FORCES PUSH CRITICAL VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT

Hudson-Phillips on Chambers

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 25 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] The greatest threat to the security and vital interests of Trinidad and Tobago is the Prime Minister, whose actions and statements in the wake of the Grenadian crisis have done more to jeopardise the situation of Trinidad and Tobago than anything else since independence, according to ONR political leader Karl Hudson-Phillips.

In a wide-ranging interview with the EXPRESS on Wednesday, the 50-year-old leader of the opposition Organisation for National Reconstruction responded to what he said was a personal attack against him by Chambers and reiterated his party's stand on economic and political issues.

Speaking slowly and precisely, Hudson-Phillips, who is certain to be re-elected ONR leader at the party's fourth annual convention this weekend at Mount Hope, referred to a recent speech by Chambers in which the Prime Minister said that certain comments by an opposition party were now a matter for consideration by the national security services.

The Prime Minister was referring to an ONR statement after the 1981 general elections that the People's National Movement (PNM) would not complete its five-year mandate.

Hudson-Phillips told the EXPRESS that Chambers' remark was aimed at him and said he normally ignored what he described as "the cheap talk" of the Prime Minister.

However, he added, "I think the greatest present risk to the security and vital interests of Trinidad and Tobago is the inefficiency of Prime Minister Chambers.

"He is a security risk," he said. "His actions in the last few weeks have jeopardised our nation and its citizens more than anything else since independence (in 1962)."

Hudson-Phillips said that the Prime Minister, in his statement to Parliament on October 26, the day after the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada, "did

not disclose, as he sought to do, all the events leading up to the matter."

He had failed to explain that Basil Pitt, Trinidad and Tobago's Ambassador to Barbados, had spoken to Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams on October 21, he added.

Chambers complained after the invasion that Trinidad and Tobago had not been informed. However, Adams said he had informed Pitt of the plan and publicly accused the Trinidad and Tobago diplomat of being a liar.

Hudson-Phillips said the other three Caribbean countries which did not participate in the invasion, Guyana, Belize and the Bahamas, had not stated that they had not been told of the invasion plan.

"This casts serious doubt either on the perception of the Prime Minister or his truthfulness," he added.

Asked if the ONR approved of the inva-

sion which followed a coup d'etat on October 16 in which Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was killed, Hudson-Phillips replied that the ONR supported the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

But there would be exemptions, he said, such as if a country was preparing to attack another and a pre-emptive strike was necessary or if it was violating the basic human rights of its citizens in such a way as to offend the sensitivities of the civilised world.

Asked if he believed these pre-conditions existed in Grenada prior to the invasion,

Hudson-Phillips replied: "We have not yet been able to obtain sufficient information to arrive at a definitive position one way or the other.

The story is still being told."

Hudson-Phillips, who was a member of the PNM from 1957 to 1976 and served as Attorney General under the late Prime Minister Eric Williams, also criticised the government's management of the economy.

He said the ONR supported the principle of preserving the country's foreign exchange reserves, but said the ECO form procedure introduced recently was an "inefficient and cumbersome system."

"One simple method," he suggested, "is to tie in the question of import licenses and importations into the same computer system as you have for foreign exchange permission.

"So that where the application is made for imports or the intention is expressed to import, at that point you are advised whether the foreign exchange is available or not," he said.

For the system to work properly as well, he added, "it means you must have some data retention capability which should have been developed a long time ago."

ONR Conference

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

KARI. Hudson-Phillips, newly reappointed political leader of the Organization for National Reconstruction (ONR), yesterday called for the establishment of a party group for Legal Action Against State Harassment (LASH) as the ONR's annual national conference came to an end at the Mount Hope Junior Secondary School.

"This group is necessary to offer tangible support for party policy by organizing and mounting public demonstrations whenever the government steps out of line," he said. "We have to be active and visible and spread our ideas."

He said it was no coincidence that Prime Minister George Chambers had recently accused him of being a threat to national secu-

rity since the Prime Minister felt threatened by the growing support for the ONR.

During the conference seven new officers were elected to the ONR's national executive and 13 resolutions on matters of public importance were passed.

The newly elected officers are: Ken Abblack (elections officer), Myrle Stephen (welfare

officer), Arthur Sander-son (youth officer—male), Hazel Brown (research officer), Neville Hordatt (education officer), Stalin Jones (general secretary), and Asiyah Muhammad (assistant general secretary).

All the other party officers, including the political leader and deputy political leader, were returned unopposed.

Alliance Confab on 'New Democracy'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] The National Alliance of Trinidad and Tobago, in association with the Trinidad and Tobago institute of the West Indies, will be sponsoring a conference on the theme "Beyond the Post Colonial Era: Forging a New Democracy for Trinidad and Tobago" to be held in April 1984.

The conference will examine the political and institutional framework of the twin nation state from a historical, contemporary and futuristic point of view.

It has been organised to bring together people who are knowledgeable on the issues of the national and regional political environment and who are experts in their own field, notwithstanding their political beliefs or affiliations.

The conference will run for two days and will be divided into six areas.

These are national unity, the Caribbean situation, position papers, the Westminster model, electoral and party systems and ideology and political systems.

According to a release from the organisers, the area of national unity is being featured as a special subject since disunity and fragmentation have too long dominated the politics of this society.

As such the conference hopes to discuss a variety of measures designed to pull the various fragments together and to foster and build a national and patriotic consciousness that transcends insularism and race.

In discussing the Caribbean situation, the conference will focus on development in other Caricom states drawing lessons from their experience in nation building.

Also highlighted for discussion are the Grenada crisis, the Guyanese dilemma, as well as problems emerging from the Jamaican situation. In addition the foreign policy of this country will also be examined.

In the session to discuss the Westminster model, a critical evaluation of this system of democracy will be made.

Under the area of electoral and party systems, the session will discuss the plurality system and the system of proportional representation. Voting behaviour, focusing on race, class, religion and demography will also be examined.

Call for Legal, Electoral Reform

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Dec 83 pp 1, 15

[Text] The Opposition yesterday launched an appeal for constitutional and electoral reform.

They did so as they proposed an amendment to a Government motion in the House of Representatives, seeking the appointment of a committee of both Houses of Parliament to consider consumer protection and law reform legislation.

The appeal in the House came 48 hours after the National Alliance, of which the parliamentary opposition is a part, had submitted its comments and proposals on electoral reform, to the chairman of the Elections and Boundaries Commission.

In its memorandum submitted to the Commission's Chairman, former Chief Justice Sir Isaac Hyatali, on Wednesday, the Alliance submitted proposals on the composition of the Commission, the registration of electors, as well as the conduct of elections.

Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday yesterday proposed in the House that the amendment for a third item be added for the motion to read: "(c)" "what amendments to the Constitution and or any other law are required to affect constitutional and electoral reforms designed to promote national unity and economic progress in Trinidad and Tobago."

No Opposition

The motion was moved by the Minister of Education and acting Leader of Government Business in the Lower House, Mr. Overand Padmore.

In his proposal, Mr. Panday said the Opposition would support the consideration of the legislation proposed by the Government but it would not participate in any joint select committees.

In arguing his case for constitutional reform, the Opposition Leader said that the present constitution was passed in 1976 at a time when there was no Opposition in the Parliament.

He also charged that the Westminster system of government was designed for a population with a "different ethos, background, social composition and mentality."

According to Mr. Panday, even in Britain the Westminster system had produced "a negotiation of democracy" with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher winning more seats in the last British general election with less votes than which she had received in the previous election.

The Opposition Leader told the House that constitutional reform was long overdue and that the present political system was preventing unity.

Quoting University of the West Indies (UWI) lecturer, Dr. Trevor Farrell, Mr. Panday said that the economist had said that the present constitution had created a parliamentary dictatorship.

And as to electoral reform, Mr. Panday noted that Prime Minister George Chambers had also complained about irregularities on election day following the last general election.

In supporting the amendment, the parliamentary representative for Oropouche, Rep. Trevor Sudama, said that from time to time, the present system of government was totally unrepresentative in some respects.

He said the majority of countries in the world who govern under parliamentary democracy did not have the "first to get past the post" system.

According to Mr. Sudama, the tabulation of the votes from the last general election should have allowed political parties like the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) and the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) to gain seats in Parliament.

The member for Chaguanas, Rep. Winston Dookeran, in his contribution to support the amendment said when the Opposition called for joint discussion on constitutional reform it was speaking of proportional representation.

Menu from 50's

He claimed that many of the country's present institutions were functioning without being functional.

According to Mr. Dookeran, "Government was guilty and continues to be guilty, by living on a menu from the 1950's and in so doing projecting the future from the past."

He said the People's National Movement (PNM) was formed in 1956 to deal with independence and had now lost its relevance to influence change in the 1980's.

Opposition Chief Whip, the parliamentary representative for Tabaquite, Rep. Nizam Mohammed, said that the government would never support the amendment because the present constitution suited them best.

In his contribution the representative for Couva South, Rep. Kelvin Ramnath, reminded the House that the former Attorney General, Mr. Selwyn Richardson, had told the Parliament that the PNM had been given a mandate to rule and would rule as it saw fit.

Mr. Ramnath also spoke about the non-consultation of the Opposition before Prime Minister Chambers was to speak to nationals in New York this weekend and addressed a luncheon yesterday at the Miami Conference on the Caribbean.

The Alliance has suggested that the Elections and Boundaries Commission should be comprised of:

(a) An independent chairman appointed by the President in consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition;

(b) Two representatives from and appointed by each recognised political party.

"Recognised political party" means a political party registered with the Elections and Boundaries Commission under the provisions of the Representation of the Peoples' Act and which has received at least ten per cent of the votes cast at the last local government or general election.

The Alliance expressed the view that the functions of the Elections and Boundaries Commission should be to delimit, define and determine all electoral boundaries. In so doing, regard must be had to:

.equality (as far as possible) of the number of electors in each electoral district and/or constituency;

.the character of communities;

.the commonality of interests of communities grouped together;

.natural boundaries;

.Automatic registration of all citizens at birth and of those becoming citizens by naturalisation or registration, etc.,

.Automatic deletion from the electoral list on death or emigration or loss of citizenship;

.The Registrar of Births and Deaths to inform the Commission of all births and deaths and the Ministry of National Security to inform on immigration and emigration cases;

Permanent List

.Computerisation of this exercise;

.The maintenance of a permanent electoral list which is to be made available to all political parties and to the public;

.Six weeks before nomination day for all elections the electoral list for that election must be published and supplied to all political parties and be exhibited at convenient places throughout the country for public scrutiny;

.Members of the public must be given at least two weeks to raise objections, change addresses, etc.;

.The final electoral list should be similarly published at least one week before nomination day;

.There must be adequate facilities to ensure efficient and prompt registration change of addresses, etc.

On the question of conduct of elections, the Alliance said that in order to alleviate the several problems faced by electors in the exercise of their franchise, they proposed the following:

.At least 21 days before an election all presiding officers, returning officers, poll clerks, etc. should be appointed by The Elections and Boundaries Commission and all political parties be so advised;

.Parties should have the right to file objections to the appointment of any such personnel;

.All such personnel should be thoroughly trained to perform the functions for which they were appointed;

.All polling stations should be centrally and conveniently located within easy reach of voters and in public buildings as far as possible--at least one week before Nomination Day. The addresses and locations of all polling stations should be published and not subject to change;

.The rule that polling stations must be located within the polling division and/or electoral district should be abolished;

Public Holiday

.Proper facilities for conduct of the poll should be provided particularly with respect to such seating accommodation as would enable party scrutineers to function meaningfully, such accommodation to be made ready before polling day;

.The maximum number of voters to a polling station should not be more than 300;

.Election day should be declared a public holiday;

.The registration of electoral vehicles should be abolished.

.The Alliance told the Chairman that it is questionable whether the present Westminster model of first-past-the-post single member constituency "is the political system best suited to meet the needs of our small, compact and highly plural society."

The Alliance said, "We feel that the time has come to seriously consider a form of proportional representation which would promote greater unity among our citizens, as opposed to the present system which has tended to divide us."

UNION PROBLEMS WITH MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT REPORTED

Criticism of Economy

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 23 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] The Communication Workers' Union (CWU) has accused the government of mismanaging the economy and then attempting to transfer the economic burden to workers.

The union made the charge as it told of support by the senior staff of the Telephone Company for the junior staff at the Trinidad and Tobago External Communications (Textel), who have rejected the wage offer by the state enterprise.

Said the CWU statement: "We are convinced that the similarity in the position of these two state-owned public utilities is in keeping with the concerted attempts of the government to have the workers pay for and shoulder the burden of the so-called crisis in the national economy--a crisis which to a large extent has developed due to a legacy of economic mismanagement by the government over the past decade".

Fedchem Retrenchment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Nov 83 p 22

[Text] Federation Chemicals Limited, Point Lisas, has retrenched 50 employees, the majority of them hourly-rated, weekly paid.

According to Mr Bennett Berkeley, Labour Relations Officer of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union, the company took that action while the union was awaiting word from the Minister of Labour on a meeting to discuss the company's retrenchment programme.

Mr Berkeley accused Fedchem of acting in bad faith.

He said the company retrenched the workers over the past two weeks, 35 of them early last week.

Other Jobs

The company, after first retrenching 15 of the workers, said it had a total of 50 to be laid off for economic reasons. Fedchem has confirmed the latest retrenchment.

The OWTU, said Mr Berkeley, suggested to the company that if certain plants had to be shut down, then the company should embark on a training programme aimed at placing the workers in other areas of operations.

He said the union felt sure that the workers would be able to do other jobs within the fertiliser complex.

He recalled that the union had discussed the planned retrenchment with Minister of Labour Errol Mahabir and at the Minister's request, had submitted a document outlining the union's views and suggestions for redeployment.

"But it seems to us that Fedchem is bent on sending home workers without due consideration for them and their families", he said.

Fedchem said last June that it had been operating certain plants well below capacity and at a considerable loss for almost two years due to the loss of traditional markets resulting from declining fertiliser use and fierce price competition from foreign manufacturers.

Further, the company said that it could not foresee a change in the market situation and could no longer continue to operate its plants at a loss.

Telco, Textel Rows

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Nov 83 p 17

[Text] The Communications Workers' Union has called for a meeting with the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress to discuss the situation involving negotiations with the Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company (Telco) and Textel.

In a letter to Senator Vernon Glean, President of Congress, the union suggested that they meet to develop alternative strategies to defend the interests of the workers of the two companies and "the workers of Trinidad and Tobago in general who are employees of the State sector."

The letter, signed by the union's Secretary General, Mr Ian Clarke, noted that the "unrealistic proposals being put forward by the two managements are certainly not intended to achieve settlement through dual discussions and without the intervention of a third party."

The letter said that the union had come to the conclusion that the two managements "have been relegated to the role of mere messengers of Government who do not possess the authority to negotiate, but only to convey or project the Government's outlook on austerity measures in so far as they relate to collective bargaining in State sector industries."

According to the union, the two have adopted similar approaches to the negotiations. Both have made "extremely provocative" wage offers of 22 per cent over three years. Textel has refused to make improvements on vacation and other leave entitlements, and some of the allowances.

43 Sitzings

Further, after Textel made minimal proposals on some cost items such as laundry, travelling and subsistence, the company argued that workers would not be eligible for retroactive payment on most of the allowances.

After 43 sittings, talks broke down. The union said that the same might happen after only 18 sittings with Telco. At Telco, the management indicated that it had no intention of improving on any of the allowances.

The union has requested immediate intervention of Congress.

Amoco 'Harassment'

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 1 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] OILFIELDS Workers Trade Union vice president Errol McCleod charged yesterday that the Amoco Oil Company was intimidating workers in its effort to prevent the union from representing the company workforce.

Mc Cleod made the point during a press conference at the union's San Fernando headquarters. He said the company had been changing the hours of work of some workers arbitrarily in an effort to force them to support the union.

Mc Cleod said that Amoco was using its influence to get the reg-

istration, recognition and certification board to call for a ballot to determine whether the workers wanted the union as the bargaining unit.

Mc Cleod said the board had already determined the bargaining unit at Amoco to be the limited hour monthly rated workers which comprise some 400 employees. He said the union had not been granted recognition to represent the workers.

Mc Cleod said it was unusual to implement a head count before granting recognition since there had been already examined the

records of the union to determine the validity of the union.

Mc Cleod said the claim for recognition was made on May 26, 1983. He said on June 13, 1983 Amoco asked the board to have a head count. He said the union's claims was verified on October 17, 1983. Mc Cleod said that since the union made the claim for representation the company issued three bulletins relating to the subject.

In an Amoco bulletin issued to workers the company advised, "management maintains however that the

secret ballot is the only procedure that can give a true and fair result. So, the board will proceed to use 'the investigative procedures' that 'it employs' to determine whether the union has more than 50 per cent of the limited hour employees as members in good standing.

"Management it seems, hasn't now exhausted the avenues available to it to obtain a ballot and as far as we can see, resolution lies in the hands of the employees. We reiterate that the matter now rests between you and the board."

Rebuff of CPTU

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Dec 83 p 22

[Text]

THE COUNCIL of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU) yesterday expressed "deepest regret" that it has not been able to meet with the Labour Congress to work out a common position and line of action on retrenchment and wage restraints.

In a letter to the General Secretary of Congress, the CPTU said it was of the view that "urgent, positive and decisive action" was

needed to have the issues resolved in the interest of the workers.

As such, the CPTU said it wanted to have "urgent consultations with the Labour Congress."

According to the CPTU, workers at present were facing a most difficult period, struggling to maintain their jobs while at the same

time being faced with certain practices by employers.

"In addition to these twin struggles, the letter read, "increased prices and punitive taxation continuously eat away at our wages and salaries and from all indications the 1984 Budget may mean higher prices, reduction of subsidies and increased taxation for the working population."

BANK OK'S TEMPORARY CHANGE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE FORMS

Central Bank Measures

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] A modification of the EC-0 form for processing foreign exchange applications, has come into effect until December 15, when it will again be reviewed by the Central Bank.

A release from the Bank yesterday said in an effort to expedite the processing of the forms, the Bank has introduced certain new procedures for the release of foreign currency for the payment of imported goods.

The new measures which modify the existing procedures came into effect on Friday and will remain until mid-December when another revision of the form will be made.

The EC-0 form came into effect in October but resulted in chaos among businessmen and other importers because of the lengthy delay in the processing of the form.

The forms are meant to curb the flow of foreign exchange from the country.

After meeting with representatives from various business organisations, the Central Bank decided to modify the form.

According to the release, these modifications pertain to drawings under letters of credit, payments on open accounts and sight drafts and to the settlement of acceptances.

It said the Bank has authorised the commercial banks to process applications for drawings on letters of credits which had been affected before October 7, 1983.

Straight to Bank

Importers who have such letters of credit already established on or before that date, need not seek Central Bank approval for EC-0 forms, but may go straight to their commercial banks with completed ECO-0 and EC-1 forms, said the Bank.

It added that in these cases the EC-0 form must be lodged with the commercial banks which are now authorised to approve EC-1 forms and to sell foreign currency for the amount of the drawings under the letters of credit that had been established on or before October 7, 1983.

The Central Bank also stated that before selling, foreign currency to the importer, the commercial bank must be satisfied that:

.A Letter of Credit was approved by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on or before October 7, 1983.

.The appropriate Form EC-1 has been completed and signed by the Accreditor, Importer or Commercial Bank for the goods imported under the Letter of Credit.

.A certified copy of the Importer's Licence where applicable, and a copy of the duty entry form must be produced to it.

.Accreditor or Importer lodges completed Forms EC-0 in respect of the items (CCCN code) in the shipment. (This form does not require the prior approval of the Central Bank but must be completed).

.The relevant confirmation of the Letter of Credit bearing the serial number and stamp of approval of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs must be submitted to the commercial bank.

.The Accreditor or Importer provides the commercial bank with the supplier's invoice related to the drawings under the credit.

Additional Function

A commercial bank which has been provided with the above information may sell foreign currency to the importer. This is an additional function given to the commercial banks as authorised dealers in foreign currency.

Open Account, Sight Draft, Acceptances

Commercial banks are authorised to sell foreign currency for the amount of the draft on the following conditions:--

.The Bill of Lading bears a date of October 7, 1983, or earlier.

.Copies of the paid Customs Duty Entry Forms and import licences where applicable are produced.

.Accreditor or Importer lodges with the commercial banks completed EC-0 (without prior Central Bank approval) in respect of the items. If EC-0 forms have already been lodged with the Central Bank the Accreditor or Importer must make an official declaration to the commercial bank as to the date of lodgement of Form EC-0 and the status of Form EC-0 (e.g. returned with request for further information).

Importers who fall within the above category should submit the required information and their completed EC-0 and EC-1 forms directly to their commercial banks for processing.

Businessmen's Response

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

REPRESENTATIVES of the various business organisations agreed yesterday afternoon to accept a revised version of the EC-0 form application for foreign exchange introduced by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

The revised form was shown to the businessmen at a meeting between them and representatives of the Central Bank at the Bank yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was originally scheduled to be held under the chairmanship of acting Finance Minister Anthony Jacelon at his office at Trinidad House, but because of an emergency, was held at the Bank with Governor of

the Central Bank, Victor Bruce as chairman.

According to a senior official at the Bank, the businessmen said they were receiving approved forms once more although there were still minor problems.

The official added that the southern businessman complained that their forms were not being processed as fast but that problem appeared to be occurring at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs whose representatives at the meeting, indicated that they too will be increasing their activity on the matter.

CSO: 3298/321

LABOR, PRICE ISSUES PLAGUE '84 SUGAR CROP, INDUSTRY

Farmers' Price Demands

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Nov 83 p 20

[Text] To cut cane or not to cut. This is expected to be determined by cane farmers who are members of the Islandwide Cane Farmers Trade Union (ICFTU) when they meet on Saturday at 1 p.m. at 25 Coffee Street, San Fernando.

Mr Boodram Jattan, Second Vice-President of the union, said that the farmers were thoroughly dissatisfied with the announced \$102.62 per ton for canes sold in 1983.

He said that the farmers were calling for at least \$165.88 per ton for 1984 and unless they got that or something higher than \$102.62, they may not cut their cane.

"We prefer to abandon our 1984 crop since it would cost us cheaper to adopt that course than to experience increased expenses," he said.

After Saturday's meeting, the farmers would name a delegation to see Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production Kamaluddin Mohammed, now acting Prime Minister, on the matter.

The union has advised the farmers to receive their final interim payment on the 1983 crop. The 7,000 farmers are to collect a total of \$18 million.

Further Threat from Farmers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Dec 83 p 6

[Text] Canefarmers are threatening to abandon their 1984 crop if they cannot get a substantial price for their canes.

Mr. Boodram Jattan, Second Vice-President of the Islandwide Cane Farmers Trade Union (ICFTU) said that a delegation from the union would discuss the matter with the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production Mr Kamaluddin Mohammed on Monday, December 12.

He said that the farmers received \$104.49 per ton in 1982 and the same price for 1983.

"We have come to the conclusion that Government has imposed a price freeze on farmers' canes," said Mr. Jattan.

He said that the cost of production would be very high for the coming crop. "We forecast high increases in gasoline and diesel in the coming budget," he added. Labour costs would also be a big problem for the farmers, he said.

Realistic

The ICFTU is calling on Government to review the situation and offer a more realistic price to the farmers for the coming crop, expected to start on January 3.

The union is also asking for a substantial first interim payment. Last crop the first interim was \$60 per ton.

Farmers' estimate for 1984 is 295,000 tons of cane. Last crop they sold 346,000 tons. Total estimate, both farmers and Caroni Limited for 1984 is 1,200,000 tons. The coming crop will see only two factories in operation--Brechtin Castle and Ste. Madeleine.

Caroni Wage Offer

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 1 Dec 83 p 41

[Text] IN what is believed to be the lowest wage increase ever offered by a company, state-owned Caroni Limited proposed a 5 per cent wage increase over three years to its staff workers in the sugar industry. The company said it was able to pay only 5 per cent over three years to staff workers in the Sugar Industry Staff Association (SISA) bargaining unit. The 1,000-odd workers will get one per cent in the first year, two per cent in the second and third years. The union had submitted proposals for comparable wages to all workers of the company. The company's position was relayed to SISA during the start of negotiations recently. It was rejected by SISA. Four months ago, the company offered sugar workers represented by the all Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union (ATSGWTU) a 9 per cent wage increase.

Caroni Reorganization, Layoffs

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Dec 83 p 6

[Text] STATE-OWNED Caroni (1975) Limited is to re-organise its agricultural operations in North and Central Trinidad before the start of the 1984 crop, resulting in the displacement of about 150 workers.

Mr Sam Maharaj, General Secretary of All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union, said yesterday that the union was so informed by the company.

He said that the union on Wednesday told the company that it (the union) would first have to discuss the matter with the workers to be affected before expressing its views.

The union was thoroughly against any form of retrenchment, he added.

He said the union was also informed that the affected workers would be offered redeployment and those retained would be given 12 hours work per day with 14 hours' pay.

Mr Maharaj described the move as a "deliberate attempt to smash the sugar industry." He is wondering

whether recent discussions on sugar between Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba had anything to do with the matters.

He said the union was worried over the entire situation in the sugar industry, moreso, since the company was using contractors to harvest canes, while doing away with the permanent labour force bit by bit.

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